

SOCCER

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WEEKLY

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GST INCLUSIVE

NO CHOP FOR KNOP

By Mark Stavroulakis

Amidst reports that Soccer Australia chairman Ian Knop was set to lose his position as the code's number one, the former Cosmos chairman survived the cull at last Saturday's 41st SA Annual General Meeting.

The meeting held at Sydney's plush Novotel hotel in Brighton Le Sands with media banned from the event, four new directors were announced heralding a possible new direction for the code in this country.

Like any elections, many candidates lobbied vigorously before the AGM. Some more than others.

Prior to the meeting, the vacant position of Deputy chairman was filled by former South Australian Soccer Federation chairman Les Avory, who ironically has been known in the past for opposing chairman Ian Knop. It was reported though that during the meeting, Avory gave Knop his vote of confidence as being the chairman, thus puzzling the situation even more.

After having its fair share of problems with SA earlier in the year, IEC's managing director Dominic Galati has already pledged some proposed plans towards the new board after his appointment as director.

"A clear determination of the mission

of SA should be the first task and personally I would like to see the NSL clubs given more independence to manage their own affairs with assistance not interference from SA.



"The flagship is the NSL and reorganisation is of paramount importance otherwise we could be left with only two or three meaningful games each year with the Socceroos here in Australia".

Prior to the commencement of the AGM, Greg Woods, Brisbane Strikers chairman Ross Melville and NSL Commission chairman Remo Nogarotto-all withdrew from the ballot.

Get set for a fiery few weeks as the new directors take their stance in cleaning up the game's act — with unity amongst the board the first aim if SA hope to achieve anything in coming weeks.

With all director positions filled, it is obvious that some of the newly elected members do not see eye to eye with Knop, so soccer followers can expect a possible changing of the guard in soccer's top spot in weeks to come?

Knop has fallen out of favour with the majority of state federations in Australia due to his continued commitments to

Channel 7's television rights and for agreeing to an inquiry into the sport's administration by the Australian Sports Commission while also introducing the soccer levy on all soccer players across the country.

The new board met briefly after the AGM and it was reported that the 'new boys' disagreed on certain issues against Knop and the stakeholders.

Calls for Knop's resignation were also reported during the meeting though nothing eventuated.

SA has indicated that a more in-depth meeting has been pencilled in for two weeks.

The cheeky smirk of Ian Knop has survived this time, but for how long?



Ian Knop has retained his position as Soccer Australia chairman — but for how long?



Dominic Galati: Once an enemy to SA, the IEC managing director has been appointed as one of the new directors.

The results were as follows:

-Replacing Joe Brondolino (Former Victorian Soccer Federation chairman) was Sydney United President and accountant Robert Sestin.

-William Walker (Northern NSW Soccer Federation President) was able to retain his position at SA holding off an attempt by Soccer Canberra President Steve Doszpot.

-Replacing Greg Woods (who resigned his post before the ballot) was IEC managing director and former SBS and Foxtel head of Sport, Dominic Galati.

-Replacing Peter Horovitz (who also resigned his post as director) was former Perth Glory part owner Paul Afkos.

*Graeme Bowker's position as director was safe.

POWER RESTORED AS OLYMPIC CONTINUE ASSAULT

By Daniel Kuziow

Some five hundred and forty minutes of football has passed, but at last the Parramatta Power has a win in this season's National League competition.

Sadly, however their opponents over the weekend, the Marconi Stallions have but a single point-winless after six rounds.

In a match Power coach Nick Theodorakopoulos had earlier in the week called a must win game the visitors responded with a workman like effort to secure a two goals to nil victory.

Mid way through the first half, former Marconi favourite Brendan Renaud came back to haunt his old side with a sublime strike that left Marconi 'keeper Michael Turnbull rooted to the ground. A poor clearance by the custodian was pounced on by the Power stalwart some 20 yards out from goal, and with hardly any backswing rifled a left-footed shot into the roof of the net for a spectacular opener.

The win was secured for the Power side on 54 minutes when Kosta Salapatsidis finished off with a well-taken goal.

The Olympic Sharks meanwhile maintained their unbeaten start to the season and a two-point lead atop the NSL table after a single goal victory over Newcastle United.

A scrambled goal five minutes before half time by Joel Porter kept the Sharks' 100% home record intact as the Novocastrians slumped to their third away defeat of the season.

Poor conditions made this potential top of the table clash more like a dogfight between the two sides, with each having a series of good chances that unfortunately went askew.

Commenting after the game, United manger Ian Crook said "We've had Olympic, Perth and Sydney United away and it doesn't get much harder than that."

"I think it's a closer competition this year and I don't think we'll see someone like Perth win by 14 points."

Close was indeed the order of the day, as elsewhere in the New South Wales country town of Orange, the Wollongong Wolves hosted South Melbourne in a home away from home match that ended all square in a nil all draw.

The Wolves had the better of the play but



Power's workaholic midfielder Wayne O'Sullivan shown holding the ball against a Stallions defender during last Friday night's clash that ended in Parramatta's favour.

now have gone seven consecutive halves without scoring a goal. The major talking point after the match was a penalty claim by Naum Sekulovski who appeared to trip under the challenge of Mehmet Durakovic, but referee James Lewis wielded a yellow card to Sekulovski for diving.

Adelaide Force continued their fine run of form with a two goals to one victory over the travelling Football Kingz.

City favourite Aurelio Vidmar picked up the valuable opener for the black and white dressed side, before the Kingz hit back with a penalty converted by Patricio Almendra on 40 minutes.

The scores remained level at half time before Scott Tunbridge found the back of the net for the winner in the 52nd minute.

Tunbridge's winner broke a tense deadlock in the second half and the Kingz will be disappointed not to at least share the points in the end after failing to convert several late chances.

The win was the Force's third this season and their first win at home since January.

An early and game concluding strike from ace marksman Damian Mori set up the Perth

Glory for an impressive two goal victory against Sydney United. A goal after nine minutes and a converted penalty with just 16 minutes remaining secured victory against the visiting Sydney side.

The double strike-moved Mbri's season tally to six and he is now just nine shy of recording 200 NSL goals. The Glory likewise keep the pressure on the Sharks with the lead at the top still only two points.

The most dramatic match of the round was at Knights Stadium, where Brisbane snatched a gutsy 3-3 draw against the Knights.

Down to 10-men, Brisbane was awarded an injury time penalty, which current NSL Player of the Year Fernando Rech finished comfortably.

Brisbane's chances had earlier looked doomed when Peter Grierson was sent off in the 71st minute and still trailing three-two after strikes from Anthony Pelikan and a double from exciting young Knights striker Henry Fa'Arodo.

But not to be outdone, the Strikers battled to the end and were justly rewarded with a late, late equaliser.

FULL NATIONAL LEAGUE
COVERAGE

FOOTBALL GIANTS PENAROL ARE
COMING TO AUSTRALIA
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ONE ON ONE WITH THE 'BULLDOG' OF
OZ Robbie Slater
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BY DANIEL KUZIW

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In major news from the
European Champions
League, Ivan Ergic was the
hero for Basel as his last-
minute equaliser gave the
Swiss champions an unlikely
point in a 2-2 draw with
Valencia.



Ivan Ergic: Scored a brace
against in Basel's draw with
Valencia.

He was in the thick of it earli-
er as well, as his strike had given
Christian Gross' side the lead
with the competition's 2,500th
Champions League goal.

Stan Lazaridis is certainly
turning heads at
Birmingham after a somewhat
slow start to the season.

Manager Steve Bruce had kept
the Socceroo on the bench for
many of the early season games
but since his inclusion for the
Worthington Cup win at Leyton
Orient, Lazaridis has not looked
back. The last three games have
put me back in the frame,"
Lazaridis told
icbirmingham.co.uk

"Now it's up to me to keep the
shirt. It's always nice to start," he
said. "It was frustrating coming
on when you're one or two down
and you're sent on to try to win
the game.

"But I thought I did all right
when I came on for the second
half at Middlesbrough and I was
happy when I came on against
Liverpool and sent over the cross
which Clinton Morrison headed
in for the equaliser. It's gradually
been coming, but it was just a
case of waiting for a proper go.

He credits Steve Bruce also as
a manager willing to give his
players a go.

"He's a good manager and a
fair one, too," said Lazaridis.
"He said everyone would get
their chance and he was as good
as his word. He's given me a go.

"The key is that once you get
that chance, it's up to you to keep
it and my job is to just to continue
providing a service for
Clinton Morrison and Stern
John."

Lazaridis has also benefited
by the sudden decline of
Australia's footballing fortunes.

"It's come to a bit of a stand-
still as far as that's concerned,"
he said. "Probably, that's no bad
thing.

"Things don't look so good
back home, as far as the financial
side is concerned and since we
were knocked out of the
Confederation Cup, we don't
have the same options as coun-
tries in Europe.

"But it's enabled me to have a
proper break from international
football, which is the first time in
a long while, certainly since I've
been with Blues.

"I feel all the better and sharp-
er for it and it at least allows me
to concentrate on giving my all
for Blues.

Goalkeeper Mark
Schwarzer has backed his
teammates to bounce back
from their "worst performance
of the season" against Charlton
last weekend.

Schwarzer was horrified by
Boro's display in a 1-0 defeat at
The Valley on Sunday, but insists
it was merely a "hiccup" rather
than the start of a slump.

"It was a bad day at the office
for us," said the Australian inter-
national on TEAMtalk.com
"We've played extremely well up
to that point but that was by far
our worst performance of the
season.

"Hopefully, we can rectify it.
The less games we play like
Sunday, the better for us.

"But we're a team with gen-
uine aspirations to a high-placed
finish and we're going to have a
hiccup or two along the way. I
believe that's all it was."

♦♦♦♦

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Out-of-favour Leeds striker
Mark Viduka has been
told to "get used to it" by man-
ager Terry Venables after los-
ing his place in the Whites
team.

The burly Australian interna-
tional is said to be upset at not
starting the last three Leeds
games, having being named as a
substitute in the encounters.

It is thought that Venables
wants the big Australian hitman
to lose weight and improve his
fitness and warns him that no
player has a divine right to a play
in the first team.

Venables said that Viduka had
been to see him and that he was
unhappy at being out of the side
but he would expect that from
any player who is not getting into
the starting XI.

Venables commented: "That is
the way you have to work now,
players are being either rested or
moved to the side until they get
their chance again.

"He just has to get used to it -
there are still things I need to try
out in the side.

"I have spoken to him about
the situation, I called him in just
like I would do with every other
player."

♦♦♦♦

1860 Munich striker Paul
Agostino is again being
linked with a move to Turkish
outfit Fenerbahce.

Planetfootball.com has
revealed the 27-year-old
Australian was close to joining
the Turkish outfit earlier this
year, however the Socceroo
opted against the switch fol-
lowing delays to the transfer.



Paul Agostino: A move to
Turkey is again on the
cards.

Munich has hoped to offload
the former Bristol City striker
over the summer, after a fall-out
with coach Peter Pacult, however
the protracted transfer never
materialised.

Former coach Werner Lorant
is still keen to bring Agostino to
Turkish football, having worked
with the playing during his time
at the helm of The Lions.

Fenerbahce will have to wait
until January to make their move
for the striker as the transfer win-
dow does not re-open till then.

♦♦♦♦

In the wake of Wayne
Rooney's devastating goal
against the former unbeaten
Arsenal side, a great deal of
attention is being made about
Everton's other youth players,
including Aussie David
Carney.

The former Macarthur young-
ster is being tipped to make
senior success at Goodison Park



David Carney: Impressing
all at Goodison Park.

in the years to come.

Carney is yet to be capped by
Australia, but he is already a reg-
ular with Everton's reserves team
and deemed the team's dead-ball
specialist.

Last year Carney was part of
Everton's FA Youth Cup finalist
team.

♦♦♦♦

Australian midfielder
Richard Johnson this week
told planetfootball.com he is
delighted to be back in the
frame at Watford after being
sidelined for almost two years
by recurring injuries.

The Australian international
had to undergo two operations on
a knee ligament injury but made
his return to action earlier this
month.

Johnson, who has been at
Watford for over 10 years,
agreed a new two-year contract
with The Hornets in the summer
and he was more than happy to
put pen-to-paper.

"When I was out of contract at
the end of last season, the club
could easily have let me go,"
Johnson told the website.

"The first operation was a dis-
aster, every time I tried to run the
leg kept blowing up and nobody
could tell me why. I broke down
that many times that people were
wondering if I would ever play
again. You could see it in their
faces.

Johnson is now concentrating
on getting his place back in
Watford's starting line up with
the prospect of once again play-
ing for the national team.

"The first thing to do is have a
good season with Watford and
take it from there," he said

"But it's definitely a target to
get back in the national team and
be part of the next World Cup

campaign. Being with the
Socceroos was a great experi-
ence. It was everything I hoped it
would be.

A testimonial now appears to
be on the cards for Johnson in the
near future.

♦♦♦♦

As AA reported several
weeks ago-midfielder
Kasey Wehrman looks set to
leave Moss after the club con-
firmed he would be sold.

"We've agreed with the player
that he will be sold. Kasey wants
to play in England, but we
haven't heard anything from any
clubs over there. "We will, how-
ever, listen to anyone tabling an
offer," Moss director Knut
Evensen said to sportinglife.com.
Both Lillestrom and Molde have
made their interest known how-
ever the former Perth Glory star
is committed to seeing out the
season with the relegation threat-
ened side.

"Right now I'm focusing on
Moss, but I've already said I'm
ready for a bigger stage," said
Wehrman.

"I don't know if Molde fit that
bill, but obviously it's flattering
when clubs come after you."

♦♦♦♦

Lastly the offices of AA
would like to amend a
story that appeared in last
week's edition concerning the
news that Umbro had secured
sponsorship of the England
national competition.

That report was incorrect with
Mitre in fact securing the con-
tract. AA would like to apologise
for the discrepancy but still
believes the decision will have a
huge bearing on the many
Aussies playing in England.

♦♦♦♦



Richard Johnson: Working
his way back into the
Watford side following a
long injury lay off.

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NSL crowds hit seven-year low

National Soccer League attendances have dropped to their lowest point in seven years, with fans turning away from the troubled domestic game in droves.

Six weeks into the season, the average NSL crowd is 4,381 - down 15 per cent on last year - with more than 66,000 fewer through the turnstiles than at the same point last season.

And leading the downward spiral are the league's best supported clubs Perth Glory and Newcastle United, which have had their attendances drop by up to 20 per cent this season.

Not since 1995-96 - the season before the Glory entered the league and brought a massive supporter base with it - have NSL attendances been as low.

The Glory has shifted its early season matches to Sunday evening from Saturday night, which has been blamed in part for its attendance drop.

But the fall in crowds is a league-wide trend this season, causing many to blame the Seven Network, which holds the rights to televise the NSL but has declined to do so this season after the collapse of its pay-TV channel C7.

That means the NSL receives no television coverage - free-to-air or pay-TV - robbing the game of virtually its only means of mass media promotion.

"We can't identify the specific reason for the drop in crowds," Glory chairman Nick Tana said.

"Whether or not it's the lack of visibility of the league and the lack of free-to-air television I don't know."

"But if you look at the rest of the league, theirs (attendances) have dropped off as well."

"If the league is not visible in the marketplace as a marketable product, there'll be a detrimental effect."

Perth and Newcastle are still far away from the biggest home drawcards in the league despite the drop.

This year, champions Olympic Sharks, Northern Spirit

and South Melbourne are among those whose crowds have dropped markedly.

But the worst home gates in the league belong to the Brisbane Strikers, who attracted a paltry 1,840 to Ballymore for their 3-2 loss to Adelaide City on Saturday night.

The Strikers, who drew more than 40,000 to their grand final win in 1997, are drawing just over 2,000 on average for their three home games to date.

South Melbourne general manager Steve Blair, who played more than 300 NSL games, admits he has found



Where is the National League crowd?

attracting spectators much harder than he anticipated when he took on the job in the off-season.

But South still attracts the league's third best crowds despite a marked decline from regular 10,000-plus crowds in the mid-1990s.

"Soccer in general has a bad taste in the mouth from the public's point of view because there's a lot of uncertainty about Soccer Australia and the NSL," Blair said.

"People just aren't sure it's worth their while to come along because of all that."

"But once they do, they see that it is a pretty good game to watch."

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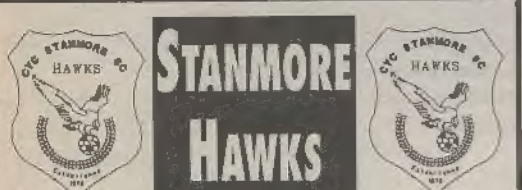
Sunday 3rd, 10th & 17th November 12.00noon-1.30pm

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INDEPENDENT SOCCER REVIEW

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

On 8 August 2002 Senator the Hon Rod Kemp, Minister for the Arts and Sport, announced a major structural review of soccer in Australia. The Review will establish a best practice structure, governance and management framework for soccer in Australia, to enable the sport to maximise its potential at all levels from community participation to international performance.

An independent committee, chaired by David Crawford with members Johnny Warren, Kate Costello, Bruce Corlett and Mark Peters, is conducting the Review and will make recommendations to the Commonwealth Government and Soccer Australia.

Ernst & Young is assisting the Review Committee in undertaking an extensive investigation and consultation process into the structure, governance and management of Australian soccer.

Written submissions are currently sought from persons and organisations with an interest in putting forward views that they believe should be brought to the attention of the Review Committee.

Submissions should be succinct and express your major concerns and any appropriate recommendations for consideration by the Review Committee. Views should be supported by appropriate evidence or examples. Submissions should concentrate on the requirements of the terms of reference and focus on the following key issues:

1. views of the existing structure, governance and management of soccer in Australia
2. views on ways to improve the present structure, governance and management of soccer that address the needs of affiliate organisations and stakeholders.

These views might include comment on matters such as processes for elections and appointments, decision-making, information sharing and communications, costs and charges, and player development/competitions.

Submissions will not be accepted unless contact name, postal address and email address (if available) are provided. The closing date for receipt of submissions is **22 November 2002**.

Submissions should be forwarded to:
Independent Soccer Review
PO Box 176 BELCONNEN ACT 2616
Or email to: email@soccerinquiry.org.au

The Committee will hold forums to enable individuals or groups to make presentations to support their written submissions. Forums are planned in each state and territory capital city and in Coffs Harbour. Further forums may be held in regional Australia. Persons and organisations that make a written submission by close of business on **12 November 2002** are able to apply to the Review Committee Secretariat on (02) 6214 1885 or by email at: email@soccerinquiry.org.au to present their submission at a forum. Time blocks of 15 minutes will be allocated for presentations (some presentations may be allocated more than one block).

The following days apply for personal presentations.

Expected times are between 12 noon and 8pm:		Canberra	Tuesday 26 November 2002
Melbourne	Monday 18 November 2002	Sydney	Wednesday 27 November 2002
Hobart	Tuesday 19 November 2002	Brisbane	Friday 29 November 2002
Adelaide	Thursday 21 November 2002	Coffs Harbour	Saturday 30 November 2002
Perth	Friday 22 November 2002	Darwin	Monday 2 December 2002

Information about the Review, its terms of reference and the making of submissions can be found at www.soccerinquiry.org.au, or by calling 1800 107 700.



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Elrich Brothers gunning for Success

By Taghred Chandab

There is a sense of excitement and passion in Tarek Elrich's voice as he speaks about his dream to represent Australia and to be a professional athlete.

His dream is like that of every teenager who is playing soccer in this country. The only difference is this 15 year old has a brother who has worn the green and gold at a World Cup and plays a crucial role for the Parramatta Power in the National Soccer League.

Ahmad, Tarek says, is his role model and of course his big brother. "I would like to one day do what he has done at his age," the shy teenager said. "He has helped me so much over the last few years and given me hope."

Tarek was too young to remember what Ahmad was like as a soccer player at the age of 15 although he says he wants to follow in his brother's footsteps and be a successful and professional



Tarek hoping to emulate the success of his brother Ahmad.

soccer player.

The Year 10 student at Granville Boys High School is reminded each day of his older brother's talent. As you walk into the Elrich house hold there are two large framed photos of Ahmad wearing his Australian strip and also in action for the Power. Beside them now is a recent photo of Tarek displaying his qualities for NSW at the recent U/15 National Talent Identification Championships.

While Ahmad is on the verge of heading overseas to further his career in Europe, Tarek is making a name for himself as a NSW representative and also at the Olympic Sharks. He is now one of the youngest players featured in the Sharks youth team line up. The Sutherland-based club wasted no time signing the teenager last year when he showed he had Ahmad's strength and speed. The youngster was originally signed to Olympic's under/15 team but was quickly promoted to the

under/17 squad.

"As soon as I started playing there my style of football changed and improved," he said. "I was presented with an opportunity but I didn't expect to move into the youth team so fast."

He admits his daily training schedule has forced him to sacrifice many social activities. Ahmad, who hears him say he has no social life, quickly sets his younger brother straight. "Sometimes there are things you need to do to get ahead in life," Ahmad replies. "If you do the hard yards now then you'll be rewarded in the future."

Ahmad's story is unique: unlike most Power youth players he had no institute training - he was raw talent from the Parramatta Eagles. His speed and strength caught the eye of the Power's then first grade coach, David Mitchell, during Club trials. He was later offered a contract and within three months Ahmad, then 18, had made his

FACT FILE

Tarek Elrich
Age: 15
Club: Olympic Sharks
Representatives Honours:
Representative Honours:
Career highlight:

Ahmad Elrich Statistics at 15
Age now: 21
Club: Parramatta Eagles
NSW U/15
Nil
Winning the NSW U/15 Talent Identifications Championships in October 2002
Playing in the reserve grade for the Eagles.

debut in the National Soccer League. He says he began to realise his life long dream of being a professional soccer player was just around the corner.

"I didn't have anyone to guide me at the time so I had to work things out myself," Ahmad said. "I made some mistakes but now I want to be able to make things easier for Tarek and help him when I can. We're fortunate that we play in the same position because the advice I get from coaches I forward on to him. He is a great player and has some good

qualities that I didn't have at his age."

With his guidance Tarek has been able to adapt to the pressures of soccer in Australia. He has used Ahmad's knowledge and experience in the game to get ahead.

"I think if I didn't have Ahmad then it would be much harder to walk into an NSL Club this early," the youngster said. I hope that one day we will be playing for the same Club in Europe and representing Australia."

SA Hits Back At Media Claims

Soccer Australia has hit back at newspaper reports its excessive demands on overseas federations have prevented friendly competition for the Socceroos.

While the governing body never admitted it had been holding talks, Romania is believed to be the latest nation to withdraw from a mooted clash against Australia - reportedly originally set down for November 20.

The Daily Telegraph claimed on Tuesday the cancellation of games against Romania, Italy, the US and Portugal was because of appearance demands of \$110,000 as well as the cost of airfares and accommodation.

But SA chief executive Alan Vessey responded to the claims in a media statement on Tuesday, "to correct the misleading Sydney media report regarding the international program for the senior national team".

"SA is currently in discussions with a number of national associations from around the world concerning a six-game yearly schedule of matches for our Socceroos from 2002/03 onwards, in preparation for our 2006 FIFA

World Cup qualification campaign," the statement began.

"At no point has SA publicly named a prospective opponent nor released details of our financial terms offered to those national associations in attempting to reach agreement on potential matches.

"The figures quoted in the Sydney media article are wrong and misrepresent the efforts of SA in negotiating a responsible and commercially attractive package for our senior national team, where this package realistically reflects the value of playing the Socceroos.

"SA has not budgeted for an appearance fee as suggested when constructing their financial terms for the four overseas based matches.

"We will not disclose any countries that we are currently in discussions with until those negotiations are concluded and we have confirmed the match by signing a contract - to suggest that Soccer Australia has priced itself out of the international fixtures market and left it without viable opponents is incorrect and totally misleading."

SCARSELLA LOOKS TO ASIA

Oceania president Basil Scarsella has confirmed that a strategic alliance is being sought with the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) that could result in NSL clubs gaining entry into the lucrative Asian Champions League.

Speaking on SBS' TheWorldGame TV program, Scarsella said Oceania is seeking alliances with all football confederations aimed at assisting the development of the game across the board.

"I do agree that our future is with Asia and it's important that we establish ties that are long lasting," Scarsella said.

"The understanding between the Asian confederation and the Oceania confederation has been a long time coming and I think it's for the mutual benefit of both organisations. (It's) basically help from the Asian Football Confederation at pretty much all levels of the game. At the most senior level down to the grassroots and the development of the game."

"We've already started with the Asian and Oceania challenge between the national champions of both confederations.

"We are going to take that down to every level of the game to ensure that our ties with Asia are there for a long time to come for the benefit of future generations.

Scarsella also remains confident that Oceania has the support of the FIFA executive and the various confederations for direct entry into future World Cups.

"Yes, I am aware (of South America's support)," he said. I have been saying for

continuing to work at all levels to ensure that it stays that way until the vote which is expected on the 17th and 18th of December.

"South America is on side, Asia has expressed public support. Yes we're looking ok but it's not done until it's finished.

Scarsella indicated he was open to the prospect of trying to see Oceania representatives earn wild cards into some confederation championships such as the Copa America or South American championship.

"Yes, they're all possibilities," he said. "We're going to sit down in a serious manner to make sure that we're planning all those things early in 2003.

Being mindful of not only pushing Australia's interests, Scarsella is determined to utilise the arrangement with Asia to raise the quality of football throughout Oceania.

"We want to expand the relationship, not only at the senior level for the benefit of the Socceroos and obviously New Zealand which are the two stronger countries in Oceania, but we want the relationship to benefit the development of the game and we've got nine island countries in Oceania who are desperately looking for competition on an international level," Scarsella said.



Oceania President Basil Scarsella.

a long time that there is general across the board support for Oceania getting direct qualification in the 2006 World Cup. I'm pleased they're telling other people they support it.

"While everything looks good, we are

SITUATION BRIGHTENS FOR MACALLISTER

By Mark Stavroulakis

The saga troubling Northern Spirit star striker Dylan Macallister has seemed to turn a bright corner after Swiss club FC Aarau have agreed to help out the 21-year-old's situation by sending a letter to the Swiss FA asking for Dylan's release.

"We approached FIFA a few weeks back regarding our application and unfortunately they rejected it so FIFA didn't help. However I've been in contact with Swiss club FC Aarau and they've stated to me that they are willing to help me out by

sending a letter to the Swiss FA regarding my release.

The PFA and Soccer Australia have also sent letters to the Swiss FA so the good aspect is that we've made some progress. I hope that this whole issue can be resolved within the next few weeks so I can play football once more.

Macallister's ex agent Bernie Mandic was quoted in the media a few weeks back stating that "There will be nothing around the corner for Dylan. I don't believe that anyone will touch him with a barge pole in the future".

Macallister replied to ABSW swiftly by saying: "As an agent, he was very unprofessional. He was supposed to represent

me as my agent and yet he said things like that about my future. Bernie turned his back on me. He was the one that organized the trial with the Swiss club and yet within that week, other people became involved, people who I didn't know or have seen before. I have myself to blame for trusting people like this.

Too many promises that I was assured of by people were broken. An agent is supposed to tell the player everything, this didn't happen and I know one thing's for sure, I won't be dealing with him in the near future".

It's been a frustrating few months for the former Olympic Sharks player, watching his side play on the sidelines has been



Dylan Macallister: Spirit star eager to put this transfer saga behind him.

a process upon which Dylan would like to forget.

"I'd love to be playing on the pitch with the lads, I've missed being a part of the squad. Training everyday has basically been my routine for the past few months. I've been working on my fitness and also my touches. The squad itself is doing great.

We've been able to string a few wins together and the games we've lost its been due to the lack of discipline however this has been addressed to the players and the guys just want to gain a top six entry. I'm hoping that at this stage, the match against the Perth Glory in Round 7 will be my debut game for the club".

The Great Peñarol coming to Australia

By Mario Etchart

Penarol of Uruguay, three times World Club Champions, five times South American Club Champions, 46 times Uruguayan Champions, and one of the greatest and most respected clubs in international football, will be touring Australia during November.

It will be a historic visit and, without any doubt, one that will bring the skills, talent and superb style of South American football to Australia.

Peñarol's presence in Sydney and Wollongong, will not only benefit young Australian soccer players, but also local fans, starved from such quality football for a long time.

In Uruguay, a little country with a population of just three million people, Peñarol is the most popular team and one loved with unparalleled passion by its fans.

The name of Peñarol is more important than politics, religion and even life for its devoted fans.

"YOU WILL BE AS ETERNAL AS TIME AND FLOURISH IN EVERY SPRING," run the stirring lyrics of Penarol's marching song.

Since the great Santos of Pele toured Australia during the 70's,

no other South American softball club of such pedigree had rewarded the Australian public with their flair and the famous "jogo bonito", or the "beautiful game."

Founded on 28th of September 1891 in the little town of Penarol, some 18 kilometres from Montevideo's central district by railway workers 72 of them English, 45 Uruguayans and one German, the first name of the club was Central Uruguay Railway Cricket Club.

On the 12 of March 1914, the founders finally adopted the name of Club Atletico Penarol, and from that moment on it went from strength, conquering not only the local, but continental and world championships.

There can be absolutely no doubt that Peñarol is the Dean of Uruguayan football, celebrating in 1991 its first 100 year of existence.

Football legends like Joe Piendibene, John Harley, Isabelino Gradin, Roque Gaston Maspoli, Obdulio Varela, Juan Alberto Schiaffino, Alcides Ghiggia, Juan Eduardo Hohberg, Ladislao Mazurkiewicz, Fernando Morena, Nestor Gonzalez, Luis Cubilla, Roberto Matosas, Julio Cesar Abbadie, Ecuadorean Alberto Spencer, Peruvian Juan Joya, Argentine Ermino Onega, Chilean Elias Figueroa, among others, were part of Penarol's outstanding history.

One of the leading Uruguayan midfielders, Obdulio Varela, joined Peñarol in 1943, leading both, his new club and the Uruguayan national team to memorable victories.

The greatest of these was the famous "Maracanazo", when Uruguay defeated Brazil 2-1 to win the 1950 World Cup in front of 200,000 spectators in the "Estadio Maracana" of Rio de Janeiro.

The Uruguayan national team was based on the formidable Peñarol of 1950, which included Roque Gaston Maspoli, Enrique Hugo, Mirto Davoine, Sixto Posamai, Juan C. Gonzalez, Obdulio Varela, Washinton Ortuno, Alcides Ghiggia, Juan Eduardo Hohberg, Oscar Miguez, Juan Alberto Schiaffino and Ernesto Vidal.

Ghiggia and Schiaffino scored the unforgettable goals in the final against the powerful Brazilian team.

Peñarol was the first club to



pablo bengoechea

win the South American Club Championship (Libertadores Cup) in 1960, an achievement repeated the following year, and in 1966, 1982 and 1987.

In 1961, Peñarol went one step further winning the World Cup Championship after a third dramatic final against the great Benfica. And in 1966, Peñarol achieved an outstanding second Championship with a double victory against Spanish giant Real Madrid.

The "aurinegros" (the gold and black) had to wait more than 15 years to win another World Cup Championship (now Toyota Cup) after beating Aston Villa, 2-0, in Tokyo, Japan.

Now, the oldest club in

Uruguay will bring to Australia a

squad with players of the calibre

of Uruguayan internationals

Pablo Bengoechea and Gabriel

Cedres, two of South America

most talented footballers, to face

Wollongong Wolves on Tuesday,

November 12, at Wollongong's WIN Stadium, and Marconi Stallions on Saturday, November 16, at Marconi Stadium.

The current Uruguayan league leaders squad is: Federico Elduayen, Adrian Berbia, Leonel Pilipauskas, Joe Bizera, Robert Lima, Fernando Fajardo, Luciano Barboza, Pablo Gaglianone, Jorge Casanova, Pablo Bengoechea, Nestor

Cedres, Marcelo De Souza, Nestor Canobbio, Daniel Jimenez, Carlos Bueno, Favian Estoyanoff, Nicolas Rotundo and Luis Fernando Nunes.

Coach: Gregorio Perez.

Technical Staff: Modesto Turren, Alfredo Rieñzi, Germinal Lopez, Jorge Delgado.

Officials: Victor Cabrera and Marcelo Marchesano.

PEÑAROL PROFILE

Founded: 28 September 1891

Uruguayan Champions: 1900 (unbeaten), 1901 (unbeaten), 1905 (unbeaten), 1907, 1911, 1918, 1921, 1925, 1926, 1928, 1929, 1932, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1944, 1945, 1949 (unbeaten), 1951, 1953, 1954 (unbeaten), 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962 (five times in a row), 1964 (unbeaten), 1965, 1967 (unbeaten), 1969 (unbeaten), 1973, 1974, 1975 (unbeaten), 1978, 1979, 1981, 1982, 1985, 1986, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997 (five times in a row), 1999 (Uruguayan 1st Phase), 2001 (Uruguayan league 1st Phase).

World Club Champions: 1961, 1966, 1982

South American Club champions (Libertadores Cup): 1960, 1961, 1966, 1982, 1987.

1st South American Super Cup champions: 1969.

1st World Super Cup champions: 1985 (Italy).

1st South Atlantic Cup champions: 1972

Copa Teresa Herrera (Spain) champions: 1974, 1975.

Tap Cup (Africa) champions: 1974

Mohamed V Cup (Casablanca) champions: 1974

Costa del Sol trophy (Spain) champions: 1976

8th Sevilla City Trophy (Spain) champions: 1985

7th Marbella City Trophy (Spain) champions: 1985

South American Gold Cup champions of Champions: 1985, 1986.

Parmalat Cup champions: 1993, 1994, 1997.

Hyundai Cup (Korea) champions: 1996.

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Vs

12-Nov-2002

Wollongong Wolves

Win-Stadium Kick off 7pm

WOLLONGONG

16-Nov-2002

Marconi Stallions

Marconi Stadium Kick off 6pm

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at the Stadium's gates



National League Round 6 Reports



Olympic Sharks

1



Newcastle United

0

By Stuart Jones

The Olympic Sharks continued on its undefeated road this season with a 1-0 win over Newcastle United at Toyota Park on Saturday night. After the game United's manager Ian Crook even declared "It doesn't get harder than that".

The conditions were not pleasant for either side with very windy conditions causing havoc on the pitch. Yet again this season a refereeing miss caused problems early on. A Robbie Middleby pass seemed to come off an Olympic arm in the area but referee Eddie Lennie failed

to point to the spot. As the game panned out it proved to be a crucial miss.

Newcastle did not look back though and Travis Dodd fired over the top a minute later. Steve Eagleton then made a terrific run but his mazy effort was rewarded with a shot well over the top.

The momentum of the game then swung the Sharks way and in the 38th minute Joel Porter saw his effort saved by Daniel Beltrame in Newcastle's goal.

In the 40th minute a goal mouth scramble led to Joel Porter failing to be denied a second time and he put the home team ahead. It had come after a series of Shark corners when a

cross came in from a short corner. After a bit of pinball in the area Porter managed to slot it home.

The 1-0 at half time perhaps did not truly reflect the even nature of the contest but it was now in the hands of the visitors to respond and in the second they tried valiantly to do just that.

As Travis Dodd and Steve Eagleton dominated the midfield the opportunities started to present themselves but none were converted. Even captain Clint Bolton kicked the ball straight to Dodd but Bolton managed to recover quickly enough and got down and saved the chance he had presented Newcastle.

With just under ten minutes to go Porter presented the Sharks with a golden opportunity to equalize but Zenon Caravello somehow managed to blast over

from six yards. Still there was time for Newcastle to respond and still it was the same old thing - wasted opportunities. This time Scott Baillie, who was

playing the club he served so many years for, and substitute Adam Hughes who could not get the ball in the back of the net.

Overall it proved the theory that to be a great team you have to win even if you are not playing well, and the Sharks are not going to knock three points back.

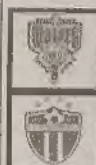
They also maintain their great start to the season. What would concern the Sharks officials most though is the disappointing crowd of 2513.

Not good for a top of the table clash, but they are not alone in having trouble drawing a gate this season.

For Newcastle at least their hard road has finished now and the form of Dodd, starting for the first time in a couple of years, and former Parramatta Power star Steve Eagleton are big positives to come out of the game.



Joel Porter celebrates his goal with Tommy Pondlejak.



Wollongong Wolves

0



South Melbourne

0

THE crossbar and referee James Lewis prevented the Wollongong Wolves breaking a goal scoring drought in tonight's clash with South Melbourne at Wade Park in Orange, rural NSW.

The NSL match finished in a 0-0 draw, but a 58th minute penalty claim made by Wolves striker Naum Sekulovski was the major talking point after the match.

Sekulovski appeared to be dragged down by South Melbourne's Mehmet Durakovic, but Lewis ruled Sekulovski dived and brandished a yellow card.

Wollongong coach Ron Corry said the penalty looked clear cut.

He said the inconsistency of referees in the national league always seemed to punish his team.

"We should have won the game," he said. "I don't have any doubts about that."

"How we weren't given a penalty is beyond me, Naum was chopped in the penalty box and he ends up getting a yellow card."

Lakers coach Denny Wright said Durakovic told him initial contact was made by Sekulovski.

Wollongong's Dino Mennillo was brought on in the second half and almost won the match in the 85th minute.

After receiving a Stuart Young corner on the edge of the penalty area, Mennillo

fired a left foot shot which thudded into the woodwork leaving Souths' keeper Dean Anastasiadis well beaten.

Three goal line clearances also featured in the match,

with Wolves duo Liam Austin and Robbie Stanton saving their side.

The Wolves enjoyed the better of the first half but after tonight's game have failed to score in seven consecutive halves of football.

The effort was there but a lack of inspiration in the attacking third of the field continued to hurt the club.



Wollongong Wolves star Naum Sekulovski had a penalty turned down by referee James Lewis. Had this been given the scoreline would have favoured the Wolves.



Marconi Stallions

0



Parramatta Power

2

Former youth international Kosta Salapasis sealed Parramatta's two-nil national soccer league win over Marconi on Friday night with one of the easiest goals of his career.

Parramatta had taken the first half lead through Brendan Renaud with a dominant display over an uncertain Marconi.

With the home side lacking fire power up front and showing a loss of confidence when within shooting range, conceding another goal appeared only a matter of time.

Damien Brown edged his way behind the left side defence nine minutes into the second half and crossed the ball deep with Marconi keeper Michael Turnbull charging out of his area.

However, Turnbull completely misjudged the flight of the ball, which sailed over his head and to the feet of Salapasis only metres from the line.

Parramatta ended a run of three draws to post its first win of the season and was too quick for Marconi, with the front line play of Salapasis and Renaud, while captain Alvin Ceccoli was again very solid in defence.

Robbie Enes was a stand-out for Marconi with his tackling and intelligent passing but lacked support from his teammates.

"Our biggest problem is a lack of confidence in front of goals where the players pass

to each other instead of shooting," Marconi coach Raul Blanco said.

Turnbull was the most active person in the opening 20 minutes and Parramatta brought out his catching and punching skills.

Renaud gave an indication of his intentions in the 20th minute with a 25-metre drive which tested Turnbull.

Eight minutes later, he was more successful when a similar drive from the right side of the field was hammered just inside the upright.

After a quiet start, the match burst into life with two yellow cards and five chances to both sides.

Marconi striker Tony Perenich should have equalised in the 30th minute when he drew Parramatta keeper Liam Reddy out of his area.

But his soft push from close range was cleared off the line by the alert Nick Orlic.

Marconi's Tony Sekulic twice headed the ball to the keeper as his team struggled to score and Enes forced Reddy to tip a 30-metre piledriver over the bar.

Parramatta coach Nick Theodorakopoulos said his midfield was mobile all night and his defence worked well under pressure.



"I thought we were lucky at halftime, especially in the last ten to 15 minutes when Marconi came back but it's nice to get our first win," he said.

*Source AAP.



Power's Brendan Renaud shows how sweet it was to score a goal against his former club the Marconi Stallions in their two-nil victory.

National League Round 6 Reports

	Perth Glory	2
	Sydney United	0

By Richard Kreider

It wouldn't surprise anyone if the Perth Glory camp is getting a little jittery right now following Perth Glory's 2-0 win over Sydney United at Perth Oval last Sunday in front of the club's second lowest attendance on record.

Glory's 'hiccup' at the Bob Jane Stadium from the previous week was erased in impressive fashion but the plunge in attendances since the club's decision to move their Saturday night fixtures to Sunday afternoons appears to have failed considerably.

You have to go back to their inaugural 1996-97 season for their lowest attendance, when just 6,299 saw the Perth club face the Gippsland Falcons in round six.

"You can't force people to come to the game, but it's not really my department right now to comment on the crowd," said Glory coach Mich d'Avray, who was in fact expecting a smaller crowd because of a thunderstorm that hit the city earlier in the day. It is quite unlikely however, he wasn't expecting such a plummet in numbers.

"It's unfortunate but we have got to move on and if we play like we did today, we'll get a few more people at our next home games," he said.

As for the game itself, it was a much improved Glory performance and may well be the kick-start the side has been waiting for in order to defend their Premiership title in earnest.

"That undoubtedly was our best performance of the season - I thought we were really good today - we were very aggressive," said d'Avray.

"This is nothing against Sydney United but sometimes you can only play as well as you are allowed to and unfortunately, they caught us when we were really on song."

United coach Branko Culina matched d'Avray's sentiments entirely but he also said that it wasn't going to let it get him down.

"As soon as I found out that Perth had lost against South Melbourne, I was immediately concerned because Perth Glory don't lose two in a row," he said.

"The players know they were beaten by a better side. They (Glory) were hungrier and more experienced," said Culina.

"Having said that, we missed 'Chi-Chi' (Gabriel) Mendez, David Barrett and Christian Cevenini, who are starting eleven players."

Perth triggered a sensation even before kick-off when Bobby Despotovski was demoted to the bench, which gave Nick Mrdja another opportunity



Just another day in the office for Glory star Damian Mori who bagged Perth's two goals in their victory over Sydney United.

to show d'Avray what he can do up front alongside Damian Mori. As it was, he played competently, although he did fritter away a few scoring opportunities through either inaccuracy or desperate defending from the Sydney rearguard.

"Nick did well and the only reason we took him off was not so much for fresh legs but the players worked very hard out there - both individually and as team," said the Glory boss.

Just before kick-off a haunting minute silence was given in respect of the Bali tragedy where all you could hear was the noise of birds around the ground. The home side opened the scoring after just nine minutes when what looked like a mis-kicked corner from Brad Hassell found Mori, who wasted no time glancing a half-volley into the net through a maze of legs.

It was a successful return to the side for the champion net-buster after sitting out last week's loss to South Melbourne because of a back strain.

Try as they might, United never looked like getting anything from the game despite the likes of Mark Rudan, Louis Brain, Slavomir Lukac and the Santalab brothers showing ample commitment. In what was a nightmare week for Glory's Andre Gumprecht, where only quick thinking, prevented a tragedy to his wife Carina and son Marc, after being diagnosed

and treated for meningococcal disease. The German midfielder grafted hard in the middle-third alongside Gary Faria, Edgar Junior and Hassell, who played brilliantly behind the front two. It was Edgar who contributed to Perth's second goal, when after a lung-bursting run through the centre of the United defence, the Brazilian was upended by substitute Ante Deur for a penalty, awarded by referee Mark Shield, who in fact had a first-class game - even if it was in a striped lime-green shirt.

With the regular spot-kicker (Despotovski) yet to come on, Mori elected to take and converted with ease - low to the tall Vanja Ivesa's left.

Mori had a golden opportunity to net hat-trick with minutes remaining when he had just the 'keeper to beat after a Gumprecht strike was parried his way but the lofty custodian was quick to come out and block the Soccerroo's shot.

Meanwhile, during the half-time interval, players from the Perth City Soccer Club went around with collection tins for the two players who were injured in the Bali bombing tragedy. Aaron Cowdrey suffered extensive burns and shrapnel wounds, while David Fyfe also suffered horrific wounds. "There were forty-two tins used for the collection and everyone was completely full," said a delighted City spokesman.

	Adelaide City Force	2
	Football Kingz	1

By Allan Gripp

Adelaide City Force stretched its unbeaten run to five games by downing the Football Kingz

2-1 to record its first home win at Hindmarsh Stadium since January 2002.

Last season the only trophy up for grabs for City and the Kingz was the wooden spoon, but both teams this campaign loom as genuine candidates for the elongated finals.

Three goals, three goalline rescues and a host of scoring chances peppered the 90-plus minutes of all-action football as the eager contestants battled for supremacy.

The home side flew out of the blocks from the kick-off with some lightning attacks from former Force captain Aurelio Vidmar, young Scott Tunbridge and Goran Lozanovski.

But the Kingz tipped the pendulum of power from the eighth minute with Andrew Vlahos, impressive Chilean striker Patrio Almendra and Harry Ngata raiding the City goal.

Vlahos tested his shooting boots with a high wide, but not so handsome attempt before man-marking marvel Gianluca Lagati cleared a drive from Ngata off the City goalline. City weathered that storm to regain dominance as hard working, tough running Claudio Pelosi back heeled cleverly to create an opportunity for Tunbridge.

The Force assumed almost complete control with captain Ante Kovacevic and Vidmar setting up Tunbridge before Kingz defender Jonathon Taylor denied Vidmar with a clearing goalline header.

City hit the front in the 34th minute when Lozanovski chipped a free kick to the fast running Vidmar, who cracked the ball into the roof of the net with a sweet left foot drive from within the bowels of the penalty box.

That was Vidmar's third goal from three successive matches to stamp the former Soccerroo as the leading City marksman.

But the goal brought a sour reaction from Almendra, Chris Jackson and Raffaele deGregorio, who argued with referee Craig Zetter that he had not blown to signal the free kick to be taken.

Zetter ended the debate by issuing a yellow card to deGregorio, while the Hindmarsh Stadium scoreboard confirmed that the Force was in front.

It was a short-lived lead because six minutes later Zetter raised the ire of the City players and fans by awarding a penalty for a foul in the box by Michael Valkanis on Almendra.

The latter punished City with a clinically taken spot-kick to send the teams into the half time break locked on 1-1.

The second half failed to match the heights of the first stanza, but there was sufficient courageous play to keep the supporters enthralled.

Tunbridge was the executioner after a concerted raid that saw the involvement of Vidmar and some amazingly committed play from Pelosi, who won possession three times before delivering the ball into the path of his young striking colleague.

That was the first goal in 11 games by Tunbridge, who was obviously elated to have ended his goal drought.

Former Para Hills player Tunbridge had a glorious chance to increase

City's advantage in the 72nd minute when left with only James Bannatyne to pass, but the Kiwi goalkeeper won the one-on-one contest. Lagati proved his instinctive defensive nature by making his second goal saving effort to frustrate Vlahos and keep City's advantage intact.

Shane Smeltz made his long awaited debut for the Force 19 minutes from the end of the game, but proved in that short spell that his speed and accurate disposal should be invaluable for his new team.



Scott Tunbridge shown celebrating the Force's second goal in their two-one win over the Kingz last Sunday in Adelaide.



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For more information please contact:

PETER SARIKAKIS

0412 407 830 or 9594 2269



FRASER PARK SOCCER CLUB

Is holding their trials for Season 2003 on the following days
Sunday 10th November 2002
8.45am-11.00am

Wednesday 13th, 20th & 27th Nov.
6.30pm-8.30pm

At

Fraser Park Soccer Club

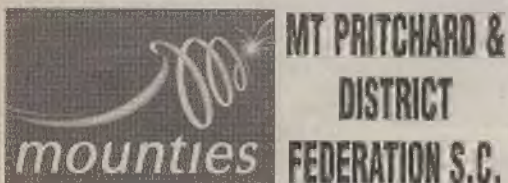
100 Marrickville Road, MARRICKVILLE

We invite all U19, U21 & First Grade players to participate in the trials.

****Please ensure you bring shin pads****

FRASER PARK SOCCER CLUB

INVITES COACHES TO APPLY FOR U19, U21 & FIRST GRADE POSITIONS FOR SEASON 2003
PLEASE CONTACT ROGER ON 0409 126 875



A Sub-Club of Mt Pritchard & District Community Club

TRIALS FOR 2003 SEASON

Youth League Trials for 2003

At Phillips Park, Lurnea

Under 17's

Mondays 6.00pm start

14th, 21st & 28th October

Sundays 9.00am start

20th, 27th October & 3rd November

Under 12's, Under 13's, Under 14's & Under 15's

Sundays

27th October, 3rd, 10th & 17th November

U15's 9.00am start U14's 10.30am start

U13's 12.00pm start U12's 1.30pm start

State League Trials for 2003

At Phillips Park, Lurnea

Under 19's

Wednesdays 6.00pm start

16th, 23rd & 30th October

Sundays 11.00am start

20th, 27th October & 3rd November

Under 21's & 1st Grade

Wednesday 6.00pm start

6th, 13th, 20th & 27th November

Monday 6.00pm start

11th, 18th & 25th November

For information contact:

SECRETARY SUE HARTAS

(H) 9673 4939 or (M) 0414 701 489

RYDE CITY SOCCER CLUB



TRIALS SEASON 2003

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE

Sunday 20th, 27th October

Sunday 3rd November

Macquarie University Soccer Field

Talavera Rd,

MACQUARIE PARK

U/12 8.30AM

U/13 10.00AM

U/14 11.30AM

U/15 1.00PM

U/17 2.30PM

U/11 DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

IN JANUARY SEE WEB SITE

www.geocities.com/rydeguns
or phone Paul 0412 268 952

ROBBIE SLATER: 'THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT'

FACT FILE:

Name: Robbie Slater -37
Clubs Played: St. George, Blacktown City, Sydney Croatia, Anderlecht (Belgium), Lens (France), Blackburn, West Ham, Southampton, Wolverhampton (England), Northern Spirit.
National Appearances: 28 (1 goal).
Favourite World Player: Zinedine Zidane.
Favourite Oz Player: Harry Kewell.
Nickname: Bulldog.

By Peter Damalas

When one thinks of Robbie Slater, ginger hair and marauding runs down the right flank immediately spring to mind! These two features have become synonymous with the man people call 'Bulldog' and helped him achieve his dreams of playing at the top level in Europe.

Robbie Slater was destined to achieve big things ever since he won the National League with St. George when he was 19. He went on to become one of the most famous Australian soccer players in Europe, first with Anderlecht in Belgium, then RC Lens in France. The pinnacle of his football career came in 1995, when he won the English Premier League with Blackburn Rovers.

He returned to Australia in 1998, after the disappointment of World Cup elimination by Iran, and was a major drawcard for the Northern Spirit in their first 3 years.

He is known as a man who speaks his mind, and he speaks to ABSW reporter, Peter Damalas.



Slater in action with the Socceroos.

1. YOU HAVE A REPUTATION FOR BEING AN OUTSPOKEN MEMBER OF THE SOCCER FRATERNITY. HOW DOES THAT SIT WITH YOU?

Well you can call it outspoken, but I just say what needs to be said. In my opinion, you need to say the truth about things and sometimes you can't say it in a nicer way. From where I've been, more than a decade overseas, you get used to a certain level and once you come back, you see the same old problems. We are never going to be Europe, but there are ways of improving.

2. WHAT DO YOU SEE IN THE FUTURE FOR SOCCER IN AUSTRALIA? WHAT CAN THE GOVERNING BODY (SOCCER AUSTRALIA) DO TO IMPROVE THE GAME IN THIS COUNTRY?

That's a 3 day answer! Without a doubt, the NSL needs to be restructured and a new league has to be created. Our future lies in Asia- we need to put forward steps to create an Asian Champions League. Just look at the European Champions League and the Copa Libertadores in South America. We can get better. And with so many Aussies playing abroad, the national team has to be based overseas.

3. ARE THERE ANY STRENGTHS OF POSITIVES ABOUT THE SPORT HERE THAT CAN BE TAKEN INTO THE FUTURE?

The game itself is a strength. The game is fine, you don't have to create a market for the sport, but more direction is needed from above.

Australia is producing very strong young players and we need more focus and less politics from people who have played the game and know the sport. But the future is bright.

There is a large margin for progression, and soccer in this country is as small as it can be. While AFL, League and other sports are at their optimum, soccer is open to innovation and will get bigger and better.

We just need to get things right at the top. Direct qualification to the World Cup, which I think will come, will also help.

4. WHAT HAVE YOU GOT ON THE CARDS IN TERMS OF COACHING?

At the moment I'm involved with Fox Sports and Soccer Scene with Andy Paschalides which I love doing, and also a number of consultancies overseas.

At the moment I'm not prepared to give it away for something which is less secure.

5. DO THE GHOSTS OF THE MCG STILL HAUNT YOU?

It's something you never get over. I think about it 3 or 4 times a week! It was great to be part of the Socceroos at the time and it was a great experience, walking out in front of a packed stadium. It was the lowest part of my playing career, but it's part of football-

you can never go back.

After 1997 you'd think that we would learn not to take things for granted, but I think the Uruguay game in 2001 was a different game altogether. I still have fond memories of my time with the Socceroos not only in 1997, but in 1993 when we played Argentina and Diego Maradona.

6. YOU PLAYED AT THE ELITE LEVEL IN EUROPE FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. HOW WAS THAT EXPERIENCE AND WHAT HAVE BEEN YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS?

Playing in Europe, I realised the dream. I grew up watching English soccer and always wanted to play soccer at that level.

The experience was brilliant, I was very lucky to play in Belgium, France and England. My wife is from France and I still visit and have a number of friends there. Winning the English



Eye on the ball, Robbie shown in his Blackburn Rovers kit.

Premier League in 1995 with Blackburn Rovers was without a doubt the highlight for me. But there are so many highlights, I can't begin to explain them.

7. WHO WAS THE BEST PLAYER YOU PLAYED AGAINST? WHAT ABOUT THE STRONGEST TEAM?

The strongest team would have to be Manchester United. They were simply the best and were at their peak. But I also played with a very good Blackburn side, and I was lucky to play with Alan Shearer when he was top scorer.

The best player I played against was Eric Cantona, he was at the peak of his career and he did some unbelievable things on the pitch.

8. ARE THERE ANY REGRETS OR THINGS YOU WOULD DO DIFFERENTLY FROM YOUR PLAYING CAREER?

It doesn't matter what you do in life,

you are always going to look back. No

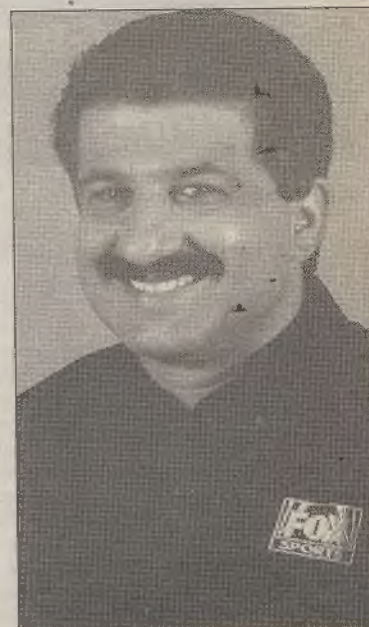
I have no regrets- I may have done some silly things when I was younger but experience makes you the person you are.

When I look back, I remember '93 when we played in Buenos Aires against Argentina. It was exactly like the World Cup Final in 1978 with all the ticker-tape.

I have a Maradona shirt, two actually- I guess you could call me greedy! I've travelled everywhere in Europe and with the Socceroos. I spent 5 great years in France and built many lifelong relationships. For an Aussie from Picnic Point, that's not bad!

9. WHO CAN AUSTRALIAN SUPPORTERS LOOK TO IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS LEADING UP TO 2006 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS?

I think the focus of the public will be on Harry Kewell. He's our best



Andy Paschalides: Robbie's co-host on Foxtel's soccer scene.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE AND OVERSEAS?

In the NSL, I think Perth, Olympic and Newcastle in no particular order are the favourites.

The same three as last season will fight it out again. In England, I can't see anyone going past Arsenal. I would love to see Liverpool do well, even though I've criticised them quite a bit!

12. WHICH PLAYERS DO YOU ENJOY WATCHING?

Of the Aussie players, I love watching Harry Kewell play. I think Zinedine Zidane and Thierry Henry are fantastic players. David Beckham also, I don't think he's overrated as many people suggest. In fact, I think he's underrated. He is always criticised and I say you can't please everyone.

It's the nature of life!



Slater in his Spirit days.

10. DO YOU THINK AUSTRALIA WILL WIN THE HOSTING RIGHTS FOR THE 2014 FIFA WORLD CUP?

I think 2018 will be a better chance. 2014 will probably go to South America, they haven't hosted it for quite some time.

The World Cup will eventually come to Australia, the rotation policy means that Oceania will have the opportunity.

11. WHAT ARE YOUR PREDICTIONS FOR 2002-03 IN THE

VICTORIAN CHRONICLES



By Brendon Davis

KNIGHTS BRING EUROPEAN GIANTS TO MELBOURNE

As part of the Melbourne Knights 50th anniversary celebrations in 2003 the Knights are bringing two of the giants of European soccer to Melbourne.



Speaking exclusively to ABSW, new Knights General Manager and Director John Ovcacic confirmed one of the clubs is Split with the other being "another giant from the Croatian League, it'll be the two cross town rivals".

The Croatian clubs, as part of the Knights 50th anniversary celebrations, will play matches against the Melbourne Knights. Ovcacic said "matches against other NSL Clubs are distinctly possible, most likely against South Melbourne, Perth or The Sharks".

These matches are likely to provide the Knights with a big payday. One or more of the matches may be held at Colonial Stadium according to Ovcacic. ABSW will provide readers with details as soon as they are available.

NEW KNIGHT BOSS

Other news from Sunshine is their hard working and popular General Manager Robert Hrzic has "relin-

quished" the position he held for three years.

Hrzic worked remarkably hard, often with limited resources to generate sponsorship and to keep the administrative arm of the Knights running smoothly.

"Being involved with the club at NSL level has been a fantastic experience," Hrzic said. "It has given me immense satisfaction, despite some of the highs and lows of Australian soccer - which at times mimic that of a roller coaster."

"The current board of directors is doing an excellent job in leading the club forward, but members and supporters alike should not be complacent by leaving the burden of care to just those individuals".

John Ovcacic has been appointed General Manager.

Ovcacic has been a board member in varying capacities over the last 10 years with the Knights having held positions as Club Secretary, Treasurer, and Director of Marketing. Professionally John Ovcacic has been involved in marketing and logistics with several large corporations.

Ovcacic stated upon his appointment that "Rob Hrzic has sacrificed much for the club, he will always be held in the utmost esteem for his diligent efforts and work ethics".

The team at ABSW thank Robert Hrzic for his support and assistance and wish him every success for the future.

200 FOR "MEM"

One of the nice guys in Australian soccer plays his 200th NSL game on Saturday when South travel to the NSW town of Orange for the match with Wollongong.

Mehmet Durakovic is regarded as being one of the National Soccer League's toughest players but on Saturday he will become one of only five players have achieved at the Club to reach the 200 games.

Mem will join Paul

Trimboli, Steve Blair, Steve Panopoulos, Peter Laumets and Paul Wade as the only players to feature 200 plus appearances for the Lakeside Club.

The defender won a Championship with South Melbourne in 1991. Last year he was one of fifteen players inducted into Souths Team of the Century and is also part of South Melbourne Hall of Champions.

He is renown for his strength and courage. Last year he played a match wearing a "Phantom of the Opera mask" to protect his broken nose.

Despite his 37 years he comfortably holds down his position at the back; regularly featuring as one of Souths better players.

During the 90's Durakovic joined Malaysian Club Selangor for four years being the club captain in their championship season.

In 1993 he was an integral part of Australia's World Cup Qualifying campaign and scored the crucial goal against Canada at Sydney Football Stadium. He also played in both legs against Argentina.

Durakovic is the oldest player to have ever played for South Melbourne in the National Soccer League at 37 years and 7 days (Vs Perth Glory 20.10.2002) and the oldest player who has scored for South Melbourne in the National Soccer League at 36 years and 146 days. (Vs Adelaide City 08.03.2002)

Early in his career Durakovic won a NSL championship with Brunswick, represented Footscray Just and after returning from Malaysia, spent a season with Olympic Sharks before returning "home" to South Melbourne where he is one of the clubs most popular players.

WELL DONE REF

Senior NSL referee Perry Mur has been forced to officiate at every one of the 4



Referee Perry Mur has officiated the four matches held in Victoria.

NSL fixtures conducted so far in Victoria this year - probably due to the SA financial constraints.

After last Sundays South Melbourne -v- Glory match Perry Mur, together with his three assistant referees all joined the supporters in the public bar for a few drinks.

As I left the ground quite some time after the final whistle, the referees were continuing their friendly discussions over drinks with a large number of interested supporters. It's something referees would be unable or unwilling to do in Europe.

Referees have been subject to considerable criticisms this season but Perry Mur and his associates earned considerable respect from some pretty hard nosed fans for their humility and decency last Sunday. It greatly assists in improving the image of Australian referees.

RED FACES OVER ORANGE

Wollongong's home match against South on Saturday is being played in regional Orange.

The Wolves are congratulated for promoting the code through regional NSW. However many Victorians believe the match should have involved two NSW based teams.

As well as attracting a significantly larger attendance, partly assisted by increased numbers of travelling fans, it would likely have attracted increased corporate support if the participating clubs were from the same state.

And on the grounds of equity its unreasonable the visiting team has to endure a bus trip to the airport, the rigours of interstate travel and then an arduous 4.5 hour bus trip simply to arrive at the venue.

The frequency of rescheduled fixtures together with the often short notice hampers the development of the NSL. Many South fans are still simmering over their financial loss incurred as a consequence of their purchasing advance discount air tickets which were ultimately useless once the Spirit game was rescheduled to the Saturday only a week before the game.

KIND AUSSIE STAN

In one of the most heart warming football stories, Australia's Stan Lazaridis was one of several prominent

European players that made headlines for their kindness.

During last Saturdays derby clash with between West Brom Albion and Birmingham one of a hail of coins left five year old Blues fan Jack Fairclough distraught, his head cut and blood pouring down his face and neck.

Little Jack was struck by a 2p coin after Birmingham scored.

Evening Mail columnist Gary Newbon spotted the youngster's distress and took him to see Blues skipper Jeff Kenna in the rooms who introduced him to the team. Midfielder Robbie Savage gave Jack his match shirt and keeper Nico Vaesen handed over his gloves. Defender Olivier Tchily even gave Jack £55 "for sweets" while Stan Lazaridis spent time comforting and chatting with Jack.

Dad Roger, said his faith in football had been restored: "It was only when I took his hat off, that I noticed how bad it was - his hair was matted and blood was pouring down."



Stan Lazaridis: Birmingham's Aussie star.

Football stars frequently endure criticism for their selfishness but the kindness of the Birmingham team turned a five year olds worst nightmare into one of the happiest and most memorable thirty minutes in a child's life.

NSL CROWDS

Everyone says the crowds are down, how far down are they. At this early stage of the season the average attendance per NSL fixture is a paltry 4,390.

Only three clubs, Perth, Newcastle and South Melbourne have maintained an average above 5,000 fans per match.

Despite their success the Kingz remain incapable of drawing a crowd with a poor average of 3,028 which will concern new owner Chris Turner.

Likewise the one team cities of Adelaide and Brisbane occupy the bottom two rungs on the attendance table, which is currently:

Perth	10,511
Newcastle	6,753
South Melbourne	5,175
Sharks	4,539
Marconi	4,371
Sydney United	4,362
Parramatta Power	4,301
Melbourne Knights	3,920
Wollongong	3,634
Northern Spirit	3,056
Auckland Kingz	3,028
Adelaide City	2,388
Brisbane	2,003



HAJDUK WANDERERS
SOCCER CLUB INC.

HAJDUK STADIUM - 130 Edensor Rd, St Johns Park 2176
All Correspondence: PO Box 332, MERRYLANDS NSW 2160

SUPER LEAGUE

2003 SEASON SOCCER TRIALS

Come and trial and be part of this successful club Hajduk Wanderers has been in four out of five grand finals since 1998 in three different divisions.

Do you want to be coached by 2002 Coach of the Year the choice is yours

Head Coach: Tommy McCulloch (M) 0416 089 604
U/21's Coach: Bruce Tilt
U/19's Coach: Tony Caruso

Sunday, November 10th and 17th

U/19's trials will commence at 9.00am Sharp
U/21's and First Grade at 11.00am Sharp

PLEASE ARRIVE 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO REGISTER
ALL TRIALS TO BE HELD AT HAJDUK STADIUM
130 EDENSOR ROAD, ST JOHNS PARK

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES PLEASE CALL
CHARLES ABDILLA (President) ON
0416 171 896 or 9757 2906
After Hours 9637 1607

UNIVERSITY OF



NEW SOUTH WALES
SOCCER CLUB

OPEN TRIALS

Men's Federation Division Two
Under 19's, Under 21's and First Grade
& Women's State League
Under 19's and First Grade

The University of New South Wales will be holding open trials from 7pm, Friday 25th October, at Little Bay Sports Complex, ANZAC PDE, LITTLE BAY.

Trials will continue each Friday until the end of November. Both Students & Non-students welcome.

For more information contact Troy Cook on (02) 9314 1387 or troy.cook@student.unsw.edu.au



WESTERN SUBURBS SOCCER CLUB

SENIOR COACH

Western Suburbs Soccer Club requires applications for Senior Coach for season 2003. Boasting over 30 years of success, WSSC is currently playing the VSF State Division One.

The successful applicant will be a proven leader and motivator, demonstrate soccer smarts, have the ability to attract quality playing staff, understand budgetary constraints, have demonstrated success as a senior coach at a high level and have the foresight to strategically plan for the future.

RESERVES COACH

With a keen eye for talent the successful applicant will be closely working with the senior coach to train and develop the players and future of WSSC. Applicants must have had previous coaching experience with development being the primary focus.

PLAYING STAFF

Interested in playing for Western Suburbs Soccer Club? Are you a quality player? Give George a call on 0411 880 913 to discuss coming to WSSC.

Coaches should send applications to:
Attention: Sasha Pete
Western Suburbs Soccer Club
PO BOX 461 SUNSHINE VIC. 3020
Or email: sashapete@yahoo.com

DULWICH HILL SOCCER CLUB

REQUIRES PLAYERS FOR THE 2003 SOCCER SEASON

Dulwich Hill S.C. is a Super League club. The club is a true multicultural Soccer Club, which is open to all who love Soccer and are keen to participate.



Where: Steel Park, Illawarra Rd, MARRICKVILLE
When: U/12's, U/13's & U/14's 6.00pm - 8.00pm
Mon 28th October & 4th November
Wed 30th October & 6th November

When: U/15's, U/17's, U/19's & U/21's 6.00pm-8.00pm
Tues 29th October & 5th November
Thurs 31st October & 7th November

When: 1st Grade 3.00pm-5.00pm
Sat 2nd & 9th November

ENQUIRIES

Club Secretary: John Ferreria (Ph: 0412 976 212)
First Grade Coach: Agenor Muniz
Under 21's Coach: Fernando Canelas (Ph: 0411 516 174)
Under 19's Coach: Ivo de Oliveira (Ph: 0415 577 783)

Letters to the Editor

GET RID OF THE NAMES

Dear Sir,
Having given Australian Soccer considerable thought in an attempt to alleviate any pessimism that may apply, and to improve the overall awareness of Soccer to the general public and future soccer supporters.

It may be the correct step forward for all clubs - both in the NSL, and local State Soccer Federations to remove the inappropriate names that are attached to soccer clubs such as; Sharks, Stallions, Kingz, Strikers, Knights, and City Force etc.

Soccer is Soccer - A controlled and disciplined team technique - through the simplicity of movement with a

Soccer Ball. Much more than just a 'Kick in the Grass' as some might assume.

This doesn't require distracting names from the game itself - It should be promoted correctly - what's wrong with, 'Olympic Soccer Club' or 'Marconi Soccer Club' or 'Parramatta Soccer Club' as examples.

From that - will come the simplicity of it, and get back to where Soccer should be going in Australia (to some extent) and on track, without unnecessary variations of it in name in the first instance.

Leslie Butters
From The Email.

Second Division Farce!

Dear Sir,
Hearing that the National League could adopt another league being classed as the second division is just hilarious.

How can Soccer Australia or for anyone in that matter approve such a thing when in reality we cannot run our Premier division in the best possible way?

Hearing clubs in Melbourne like Green Gully, Bulleen and Preston Lions wanting to start up some kind of renegade second division league is ludicrous.

These clubs are kidding themselves if they think they have what it takes to start their own competition.

The signs are clear in this year's National League, clubs aren't doing well, and many by the end of the year could be

extinct as money for soccer in this country has dried up! Having a ten-team competition is probably the most logical idea Soccer Australia has put forward in years - the lesser the teams, the better the competition.

If this does happen next season then we will see better games, players and that means the League itself will attract the sponsors once more.

For the sake of soccer in this country, a second division will be a complete waste of time. These clubs want a promotion and relegation scenario like the leagues in Europe - one thing they seem to forget is that over in Europe sponsors are everywhere, we have nothing.

Peter Curren,
St Ives, NSW.

PREMIERSHIP LESS IMPORTANT THAN CUP COMPETITION?

Dear Sir,
I would like to point out an issue that I feel warrants some recognition.

Finishing either 1st or 2nd in the league for youth and cadets in NSW Soccer Federation competitions is no easy feat and I found the fact that no real recognition was given to boys and girls for their efforts a little sad.

The season is long and arduous, in most cases some teams were together for a year in preparation and competition. But the kids did not even receive a certificate for being premiers or runner-ups.

In England, the league is the most important as it shows consistency over the whole season. Let's face it, teams can cop injuries around finals time and

the finals series is more like cup competition.

I feel the Federation do not fully understand that the league is the most important measure for success and is also the criteria for promotion and relegation, not Grand Final wins. For example, Camden Tigers were promoted to Super Youth League for 2003, but won no Grand Finals in youth or cadets, yet on club championship points they finished first in both youth and cadets.

The club achieves promotion, yet the players and coaches who put in so much work receives no lasting memento and they are supposed to be the future of Australian soccer.

Mark Adams
Campbelltown, NSW

Preston should be Expelled

Dear Sir,
I am writing about the Preston riot that happened at South Melbourne not long ago.

Well my opinion is that Preston Lions should be banned for life. Its not the first time Preston has been in the news for the wrong reasons. Ask anyone to go and watch Preston Lions at home they'll say no way.

Every time you go watch one of their games, one of their supporters will start punching on with a fellow supporter. They are not

worthy of the VPL, they behave like they're in the Amateur Leagues of Victorian Soccer. No wonder they have cages around the ground so their hooligan supporters don't enter the pitch. Their ground looks something like a prison. Something should be done to get these hooligans out of this wonderful game.

The Preston Lions will not get kicked out, as personal interest will override the natural course of law in this game. Mr Galanos, a man who has ultimate say in

Victoria has a close friend playing for the Lions and if the lions get kicked out, where would his close friend play? I know there are plenty of other clubs going around, but his close friend has been playing at the lions for over 4 seasons and is close to signing a senior contract at the BT Connor Reserve. So it would be hard for Galanos to kick out Preston.

Brian Smith
Avondale Heights
Victoria

Let the Stallions run free

Dear Sir,
As an avid Marconi Stallions supporter I am somewhat disappointed at the type of coverage the club is currently receiving in the media.

Firstly, the media has made a mountain out of a molehill by revealing that the very state of the club is at stake at the upcoming AGM.

What I believe this to be is not this but rather a meeting to decide the future direction of the club. Regardless of the choices that are made, I say this with great enthusiasm; Marconi Stallions will survive as a soccer club.

Secondly, Marconi's on field

results currently sees them lying last in the table. What the media has failed to mention is that it is still very early days in the competition, with sides still adjusting to the new competition. No one has made a big

players' wages are not all that flattering, but considering the consequences the team is doing quite well.

As I conclude, I leave you with this. Marconi is a foundation club of the NSL, where in 1977 they took the responsibility to launch the National League.

Isn't it time they receive the reputation that such achievements in the past warrant. Instead of bad mouthing Marconi, we should try and help them in less than ideal circumstances.

R. Santelli,
Greystanes, NSW

PRESTON - THE VICTIMS

Dear Sir,
In recent editions I've seen many people bad mouth the name Preston Lions after their recent altercation with South Melbourne in the Tynan-Eyre Cup.

I as a fan of Preston am sick of it. Unfortunately our club has been targeted by many as the so-called troublemakers but in reality, it takes two to start some-

thing.

I'm not supporting the actions that were set out by a MINORITY of Preston supporters however I will argue that supporters of the South Melbourne club did their bit in inciting the melee.

I just want a fair share of

statements and want everybody to know that Preston is a good club, on and off the pitch.

We did really well in this season's VPL and hope that maybe some day, the glory days of being in the NSL will be seen once more.

Steve Tancev,
St Kilda, VIC.



Northern Spirit - What's Going On?

Dear Sir,
Just wanted to voice my opinion on the Northern Spirit about their season so far in the National League.

How weird can it be?
For starters, they defeat the Strikers in Brisbane two-one then arrive home to play the Kingz and cop a four-one thrashing much to the dislike of the supporters.

After hearing of their five-nil drubbing at the hands of Newcastle United I thought that was the last straw, however I said

I'd give it one more chance and ventured off to Brookvale Oval a few weeks back.

I wasn't expecting too much but couldn't believe my eyes when the Spirit took the lead. I thought all was lost after South equalized towards the end of the match however youngster Jonathon Richter scored the winner and the rest was history.

It's amazing how results can make a huge U-turn and I for one know that the Spirit are one such side that always seems to amaze

the punters.

I hope their form continues, the best aspect about the Spirit is the amount of youngsters being used. This will only benefit the club in years to come.

As Robbie Slater stated on Soccer Scene a few weeks back, we should market the youngsters, I know Northern have that chance, and hopefully we can see more of the young brigade in action.

Colin West,
Pymble, NSW.

NATIONAL LEAGUE STANDARD

Dear Sir,
Just want to voice my concern over the recent standards of some matches in the National League.

I am sorry to say that as a keen soccer supporter in this country, the standard of football being played across Australia is very average.

I've seen Wollongong, Northern Spirit and the Marconi Stallions play and can't believe the sought of

football I've witnessed.

Everyone blames Soccer Australia for the current mess with soccer however they seem to forget that what the players and teams do on the park is also very vital for the codes survival.

If we don't have a good product then why should the game gain sponsors?

Soccer in this country will thrive I believe in a few years time.

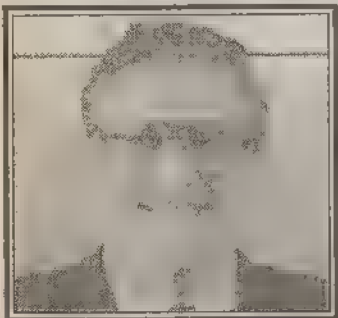
Once we see a decrease in teams, the competition will be at a better standard. With the idea of 10-teams next season, I for one hope it does eventuate.

The comp itself will ideally be the elite league. I understand it will be hard for many of the players as a lot will miss out due to the decrease in clubs however the lower leagues across Australia will benefit and prosper from this thus the soccer market will improve in more ways than one.

Joe Martino,
Chatswood, NSW.



OFF THE CROSSBAR



By Allan Crisp

A DIFFERENT KIND OF COMPETITION

Australia's National Soccer League has been producing some wonderfully exciting games this season, providing an unpredictable competition laced with many upset results.

In South Australia a competition of a different kind also is being waged between clubs as they strive to reap maximum usage of their vastly improved suburban grounds.

The purpose built soccer complex, Hindmarsh Stadium, undoubtedly offers the most modern up to date facility in the State and is the envy of other capital cities.

Hindmarsh Stadium, which is under the control of the SA Government, now is under threat of losing business to local Premier League and State League clubs.

The well documented dust up between Adelaide City Force and the NSL over City's wish to vacate Hindmarsh in favor of playing its home matches at Norwood Oval has reached an uneasy peace.

Just a few years ago, Hindmarsh was sitting pretty as THE place to play before the collapse of the West Adelaide Sharks and national rugby league club, the Adelaide Rams. Now the major stadium could lose another tenant because Adelaide Galaxy is giving serious consideration to leaving Hindmarsh next Premier League season and playing its home

matches at its suburban headquarters - the Camden Sports Complex.

Galaxy spokesman, Jim Carapetis said yesterday club owner Con Makris had not completely ruled out continuing to play home matches at Hindmarsh Stadium.

"Con has just returned from Greece, but before he left he said he would seek more discussions on the matter with the stadium management," Carapetis said.

"Con has left the door open regarding playing at Hindmarsh next season because we love to play there, but the problem is that it becomes a financial burden for the club."

Carapetis believes a return to the Galaxy home base of Camden would galvanize club support.

"We then could go back to playing all of our games on the same day (seniors, Under 23 and Under 19) and thereby create a genuine club atmosphere that is missing at Hindmarsh."

Meanwhile, the upgraded Marden Sports Complex at Lower Portrush Road, is making inroads into the ground hiring market. The management of the Blue Eagles Soccer Club home ground has won the right to house all of the five Women's National Soccer League home games for the 2002 season.

And the Marden Sports Complex, second only to Hindmarsh Stadium in stadium capacity, is prepared to bid for the rights to host the proposed Summer Soccer Series.

Raiders new facility, the Croatia Sports Centre at State Sports Park Gepps Cross, recently staged the club's 50th Anniversary Australian Croatian soccer carnival, proving its ability to host big events.

A record 28 teams competed in the carnival, won by hosts the Raiders, who defeated Victorian side St Albans 2-1 in the final, played in front of a 2,000 plus crowd.

Campbelltown City Soccer and Social Club is another go-ahead organization that has upgraded its facilities to the stage where it is capable of housing outdoor and indoor sporting competitions.

RAIDERS RAMPANT

Reigning Premier League champions the Adelaide Raiders are not resting on their championship laurels having delved deep into the transfer market to sign State team quartet Marcin Kierno (Blue Eagles), Mark Yates (Adelaide Galaxy), Lachlan Campbell (Campbelltown Red Devils) and Robbie Matosevic (Modbury Jets).

Raiders coach Michael Petrillo said he had targeted his recruits because they were all excellent players and because they possessed good character.

"We needed to add to last seasons squad because we are unsure if young Justin Bralic will join either Melbourne Knights or Perth Glory when the transfer window reopens," Petrillo said. Petrillo also is mindful that veteran midfielder Joe Barbaro and long serving Rick Caperna are likely to hang up their boots.

"And Sean Widera is recuperating from a knee reconstruction and is unlikely to be available to play until about round five or six next season."

Meanwhile, Widera is receiving the very best treatment at AMI Stadium (formerly Football Park).

Thanks to the friendship between Petrillo and Adelaide Crows assistant coach Neil Craig, young striker Wader's rehabilitation process is being aided by the use of that club's state of the art gymnasium equipment.



Mark Yates has been one of the many new signings for the Adelaide Raiders for next season.

GALAXY WANT TO HOLD STAR

New Para Hills Knights coach Michael Brooks has made a bold move to secure star Adelaide Galaxy midfielder Aaron Westervelt.

Galaxy spokesman Jim Carapetis is reluctant to release Westervelt, saying, "Aaron Westervelt is a required player."

But, Westervelt has agreed terms with the Knights and is keen to resume his State team association with his friend "Brooksie."

Galaxy is, however, resigned to losing its ace defender Mark Yates to the Raiders.

Meanwhile, new Galaxy coach Alby Kidd has recruited an imposing support coaching staff by appointing former Playford Patriots midfielder Mark Brazzale as his senior assistant, ex-West Adelaide Sharks striker Lemmy Vatsilas as the clubs Under 23 coach and Terry Hayes as the Birkalla Under 19 mentor. Vastly experienced John Evans has been appointed as Galaxy junior coaching co-ordinator.

Brazzale and Vatsilas have something in common, both having represented both Adelaide City and West Adelaide Sharks in NSL action, while Kidd, Vatsilas and Hayes are major award winners as players.

Hayes won the Rothmans Medal (now Sergio Mella Medal) in 1982 as SA's Best and Fairest Player, with Birkalla, while Kidd was the winner of the Foundation Player of The Year in 1989. Vatsilas was twice winner of the State League Bob Telfer Medal taking the award in successive seasons for Port Pirie in 1996 and 1997.

Speaking of support staff, Michael Brooks has enlisted Dave Joy as the Para Hills Under 23 side with former player James Stockdale as the Under 19s mentor at The Paddocks. And, Campbelltown City has appointed Maurice Natale as its senior coach for 2003.

STATE TEAM HONOURED

South Australia's unconquered 2002 State team was honored by the SASF at a special function at Hindmarsh Stadium last week.



Michael Brooks: New Para Hills Knights head-coach has approached Galaxy star Aaron Westervelt to join the club.

Pasta Pasta general manager George Belperio presented the players with a commemorative player kit and memorabilia of SA soccer's Centenary season.

Oceania president Basil Scarsella praised SA's achievement declaring that the State team had resurrected interstate rivalry.

"The fact that SA went through the Fast Pasta Centenary Challenge unbeaten will stand out like a beacon in years to come," Mr Scarsella said.

There was a tinge of regret with Denis Harlow announcing his resignation as State team manager, a position he has filled with distinction for nine seasons.

A former State team player and SA coach, Mr. Harlow said his work load in attempting to juggle the managerial job along with his position as SA Hall of Fame committee chairman, as well as compiling the SA Centenary History of SA Soccer book and editing the SA Year Book, had been too great.

Mr. Harlow recalls that his first task as SA team manager was in December, 1993 when SA played NSW in a curtain raiser to the Australia v South Africa game at Hindmarsh Stadium.

THE UNPREDICTABLES

By Mark Stavroulakis

It's been no secret that so far into the National League season, Northern Spirit has been one of the most unpredictable sides in the competition.

Having notched up wins against the Strikers and South Melbourne only to have been on the receiving end of a four-one and five-nil drubbing at the hands of the Kingz and Newcastle United, it's been an up and down season so far for the North Sydney based club.

New coach Lawrie McKinna has thrived on his job at the Spirit this season and has been delighted with the way the squad has been put together.

"I'm really enjoying my time at the Spirit. We have a good group of players who I know will do well as the season unfolds. The league itself has been quite competitive. I think anyone can win the league, it's that open. We are striving for a hopeful top six finish so that's been the squads aim."

In terms of the unpredictable season so far, McKinna added, "I think with the number of young-

sters gaining their debuts this season (five in fact), it's been more of a learning curve. In the games we have lost this season it's been due to discipline. In two matches we lost three players to red cards, I guess it's quite tough for youngsters to realise the importance

of being a man or two down, but like I said earlier it's a good learning experience for the lads. I think the squad has been very competitive to date and we have played some good football. We need consistency in the squad - there hasn't been one game so far that I haven't made at least four changes due to injuries and suspensions."

It's been no secret that the so-called "Bad Boy" image has flared its name on a few of the Spirit players this season.

Youngster Adam Kwasiuk, new recruit Vuko Tomasevic and the more recent suspension for three weeks of Simon Bell have joined the red card club this season.

McKinna believes its down to lack of experience but has stated that discipline will improve as the year wears on.

"There are no arguments about the send offs so far this season a red's a red as they say in football. There has been no malice in our suspensions I mean it's not as if any of the lads have lost the plot and have punched someone out. I've spoken to the side about discipline and that we plan to crack down on this as we just can't afford players being sent off."

With the transfer window re-opening in January once more, McKinna has said that there is no need to bring any more players to the squad.

"I'm quite content with the squad at hand. With the recent signing of Marcus Phillips, its added more experience to our mid-field but in terms of signing any one else, no. We have a number of injured players that will be returning shortly so there is no need to splurge into the market."

One such player that has been subject to sitting on the sidelines since the start of the season has been Dylan Macalister.

The Northern Spirit coach has been quite sympathetic with the former U20 International who has

been caught in a battle by signing for two clubs, the other being Swiss club FC Aarau.

"I really feel for the lad. It's tough for him being able to train hard and well but not play. He's done a lot of hard work on his own and I can tell that he is itching to play. I really feel sorry for him but I'm hoping that this whole mess clears up within the next few weeks."

Former Scottish international



Ian Ferguson: Spirit's Scottish star has been a great influence on the squad this year.

and Rangers star Ian Ferguson has been one player that has lifted the Spirit squad this season. Unfortunately injuries have hampered his start to the National League but McKinna believes just his presence has helped the squad out.

"Ian is a fantastic guy, he's settled in well with the side and has adapted to the Australian lifestyle. The boys all respect him - young and old. You really wouldn't think he was a superstar he's that modest. The guys won more medals than you can poke a stick at but you would never know this unless you asked him."

One obvious sign in the current Spirit squad has been the amount of youngsters being used in the first team. The former Power assistant has stated that having a good bunch of young players will benefit the Spirit in the long run.

"Before I started this season, I didn't know the names of Jonty Richter and Matty Osman and yet they had stand-out pre-season's and have been in my squad as main players. Both lads can play almost anywhere on the pitch. At the start of the season they were



Lawrie McKinna: Has enjoyed his season with the Spirit so far.

classified as youth players but I've classed them as first teamers. Youngsters Alex Wilkinson, Adam Kwasiuk and Brent Fisher have also done their bit for the side. Also lookout for youth players Steve Beveas and Matty Hunter to be introduced sometime down the track, both lads have enormous potential. Overall the club has a good balance of young and old. The future looks bright for the club though with the younger lads, so much talent will only benefit the club in more ways than one."

Interview with Marconi Sensation - Shane Webb



By Daniela Raco

Young Stallions sensation SHANE WEBB is pivotal to a finely-tuned Marconi lineup. His work rate is tireless and Marconi's forward line remains well-supplied. With sharp ball skills and electrifying speed, the pacy Webb is capable of stealing victory for the Bossley Park boys (if only they could score a few more goals and win a few more games!).

During their weekend break, I speak to Shane about late-night snacks, hangover cures, and his self-confessed resemblance to Bart Simpson!

Player's position - Left-Midfield.

How would you describe yourself as a player?

Good work rate, quick speed, and good passing, fast, and athletic.

From what age have you been playing this great game?

From the age of six I started playing for Lakemba soccer club. I moved to Apia at the age of thirteen, then St. George. I played park soccer with friends until I was nineteen. I then played a trial game against State League team Manly and they invited me to play half a season

there. I then trained with Penrith and played a trial game against Sydney United. Alan Hunter invited me to play with United. I was there for one year before joining current club, Marconi.

You co-own a marble business. Is it difficult juggling soccer and work outside of soccer?

Yes, it can be because it's a heavy job and a lot of labouring. If I have a heavy week at work I need to back it up at training. Sometimes it takes a toll on the body, so I need to look after myself.

What league do you rate as the world's best?

English Premier League. It's

fast, exciting and end-to-end soccer. It's football of the highest quality.

If you could play for any team in the world, which one would it be?

Chelsea. In the last two years they've had a lot of foreign players joining their ranks.

What makes soccer such a popular sport around the world?

It's a sport that involves skill. It's universal, and all you need is a round ball.

Is there a soccer player that you model your game on?

Ryan Giggs, because he plays on the wing and is lightening fast. He is skillful and likes to

take on players.

What are the qualities of a good coach?

Knowing each individual player's talents, knowing what they can and can't do, and being able to put a balanced team on the park.

In one word describe Coach Raul Blanco.

The man? "Gentleman".

The coach? "Simplistic".

Who is the funniest character in the game today?

Angelo Costanzo, because he just takes the piss. He talks non-stop.

Who is the last person you would like to be stuck in an elevator with?

Tony Sekulic, because he'll just chew my ear off about Germany.

If you could travel back in time, where would you go?

The 1950's and 1960's for the old-fashioned music.

What is your favorite late-night snack?

Crumpets with honey.

If you could choose any actor to play you in a movie, who would it be?

Matt Damon, because I think highly of him as an actor. He's a freak.

Who would you trade places with for a day?

Brad Pitt, because he's got Jennifer!

Which teammate could do with a new wardrobe?

Tony Perinich, because he needs to throw the tracksuits away.

Which teammate do you refuse to share a room with?

Tony Sekulic, because he talks non-stop about Germany.

What is the best ingredient for a good night out?

Good crowd and good music. Best hangover cure? Water!!

Which member of your squad is most likely to be caught dancing on a podium at a nightclub?

Me, because I've got non-stop energy.

Which member of your squad would top Cleo's most eligible bachelor list?

Kevo Gulesarian because he's "Mr Versace" and all he wears is "Monza" gear.

Where would you rate?

Top "5".

What gourmet cuisines can you whip up in the kitchen?

I'm hopeless. Baked beans on toast.

Worst haircut in the league?

Tony Perinich, because he's got a "bob" haircut.

Which famous person have you been told you look like?

Bart Simpson.

If you were invisible what's the first place you would sneak into?

Somewhere with naked girls.

Who or what inspires you?

The will to do well.

Are you the first or last to leave the change rooms after a game?

The first. I don't like to sit around and muck around.

What is the best (or perhaps worst) excuse you've heard someone use for missing training?

"My car got broken into" (and they couldn't catch the bus).

Do you have any bad habits?

Channel surfing. Flicking the TV channels all the time.

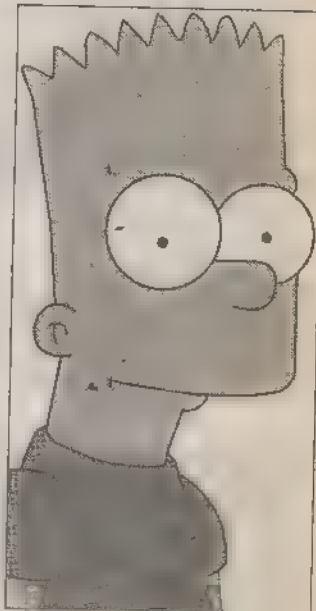
Favourite holiday destination?

Surfers Paradise in summer.

What animal (or thing) best describes your personality?

A cheetah, because I'm fast and energetic.

Do you have any hidden talents (that you can share with us)?



Bart Simpson: Shane Webb's look-a-like character.

That's a secret! But I can wash dishes.

If you could have any supernatural power, what would it be?

To see through walls.

Do you follow any pre-match rituals?

I have a little bible I keep at the bottom of my soccer bag that I touch before every game.



Brad Pitt: Webb would like to trade places with the Hollywood movie star.

WELLS AIMING FOR THE BEST WITH THE WOLVES

Wollongong Wolves midfielder Dustin Wells says he is enjoying his first full season in the NSL. Wells signed with Wolves midway through last season after graduating from the AIS.

The youngster quickly established himself as a first-choice in coach Ron Corry's midfield and is now an integral part of Wollongong's top six campaign. "Yeah, I feel like I belong at this level," Wells told tribalfutbol.com last week.

"It's been a good start for the team and there's a great spirit amongst the players. We feel like we're well worth a top six spot and if we can start converting some of our draws into wins, then maybe top two is a possibility."

On his own form, Wells added: "I've been really pleased with the way things have been working out

for me. "Ron Corry is encouraging me to get forward when I can and doesn't put restrictions on his players. Like I said, this has helped a lot with the morale of the team and it's also helped me."

"Probably the only thing I've found frustrating is that I haven't managed to score yet this season."

It didn't take me long to break my duck last season, but it hasn't quite happened for me in front of goal so far.

"But the great thing about playing for Wollongong is that you know there's going to be chances in every game."

The whole system is about attacking and scoring, so I'm confident there's a goal round the corner." Wells is expected to be part of Australia's U20 World Cup campaign and added, "That's the aim."

I have real burning ambition to



Dustin Wells: Wolves youngster is aiming for an U20's call-up.

pull on the Aussie jersey. "It's what you set out to do and I have to say, I'd walk over broken glass to play for Australia. I'm desperate for it."

PANATHINAIKOS SUPPORTERS' CLUB OF AUSTRALIA

A dedicated group of fans calling themselves the 'PANATHINAIKOS SUPPORTERS' CLUB OF AUSTRALIA', recently staged a Dinner function at the Sydney Olympic Sporting Club in the Sydney suburb of Hurlstone Park.

The Dinner Dance was attended by 200 guests and raised \$2,000.

The aim of the well-organised group is two-fold.

One is to facilitate the gathering of all supporters of the Greek First Division League giants Panathinaikos living in Sydney.

Committee Member Mr Noulie Terizis enthusiastically stated to ABSW "We like to organise get-togethers of all Panathinaikos Supporters every now and then."

"We also organise functions as fund-raisers from which we donate the proceeds to the

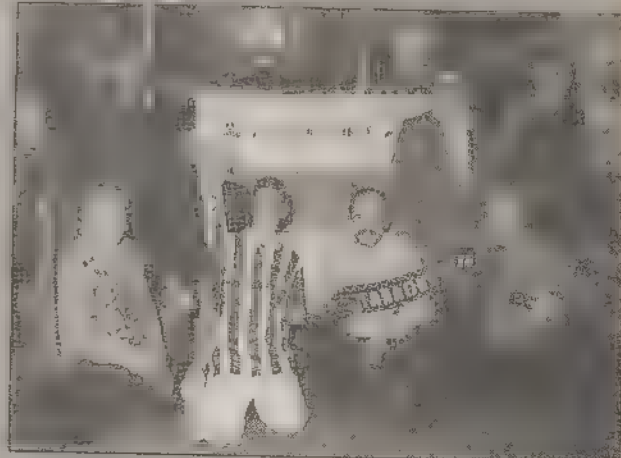
Sydney Olympic Soccer team the current Australian League Champions.

"At our recently held function we raised \$2,000 for the team."

"We like to set the example as we would like to encourage other small groups of Olympic support

ers to do the same to help Olympia."

As well, this Supporters' Club has organised and imported souvenirs for sale in the famous Green and White colours of their beloved Panathinaikos Greek team.



Mr Noulie Terizis, (front row left) with his fellow (Committee Members).



Tales from Denmark with Sasho Petrovski

By Mark Stavroulakis

In an ABSW exclusive, Editor Mark Stavroulakis had the chance to catch up with former Wollongong Wolves star striker Sasho Petrovski.

Petrovski has been part of Danish club Viborg for two seasons now and hasn't looked back since his initial move from the 'Gong.

'Sash' made an enormous impact on the club after scoring a bagful of goals in his debut season however it's been a different story this year.

Unfortunately the Australian International has found it tough to get a full-run with the club, even though the star Aussie striker scored a hat trick in his first start for the club this season.

In the following questionnaire, Petrovski talks about his footballing career at the moment, his family and lifestyle in chilly Denmark, his future and finally his International career with the Socceroos.

MS: How are you currently travelling at the moment with your club Viborg?

SP: This season has been very frustrating. I have been in great physical shape for most of the sea-

son so far I did cop a knock in the ribs in the first few weeks that set me back a bit. But since then I have been feeling really good. The Coach here however seems to find excuses to play me off the bench.

Yet on one of the few times he played me from start I ended up scoring a hat trick! Our season has been one of contradictions, we get points from the top teams then go and drop points to the bottom teams. If we had been more consistent, there is no doubt we would be challenging for the championship.

As it is, we are still well placed to qualify for Europe

MS: Your statistics so far, how many games and goals have you scored this season?

SP: I have appeared in 9 games so far but only 2 or 3 as a starting player. I have scored 3 goals so far.

MS: What is the lifestyle in Denmark like?

SP: Look we live in a beautiful city, clean and safe. We live in a nice apartment with all the latest trappings. We have considered moving into a larger apartment.

MS: What is the standard of Danish football like?

SP: Denmark proved in the World Cup that they are a strong footballing nation.

The League here attracts plenty of attention from the bigger Euro leagues as a good place to recruit from. I find that the game is very physical and fast.

MS: How's the family coping with the change from Australia?

SP: It has been very hard on my family. My wife and daughter are my greatest supporters. They have given up so much to allow me to fulfil my soccer career. But the money we earn compared to what is on offer in Australia is worth the sacrifice. It will allow us to save something for the future once my career ends. You do miss the family and friends...our only contact at times with Australia is by Internet. We really love it when we get calls and emails from family and friends. The other thing is that the last Euro summer, we spent on holidays in Macedonia with my wife's family. That was really great. Last year my own parents came over and that too was really enjoyable.

MS: When does your contract run out at the club?

SP: I have another season after



The new look Sasho Petrovski.

this one but I must say, I hope the club looks to sell me or at the end of this season. I want to go to a club that will use me as their main striking option rather than a bit player. Last season I scored 12 goals after joining the club in round 5 so I have

proven that in just over 12 months I have scored 15 goals in the League.

MS: Are you looking towards switching to another club in the near future?

SP: My manager Lou Sticca will look at all the possibilities that present themselves and then we will sit down and assess what is best for my family and my career.

MS: In terms of Socceroo commitments, you think or hope Frank Farina will use you in his new squad for the lead up to the 2006 World Cup?

SP: I hope the National coach does keep me in consideration. After all I sacrificed a lot to play that 1 game for Australia against Japan on August 15, 2001. That one appearance cost me a lot of money because

Macedonia called me up to be a part of Euro 2004 but that 1 game prevented me from playing for anyone else but Australia. I am very proud to do so but I must say was very hurt to have not been asked to represent Australia in the qualifiers for the Confederations Cup. Still, leaving that aside I am very very keen to don the green and gold once more.

MS: Have you been keeping a close eye on the National League this season?

SP: I'm delighted to see my old Club is putting together a solid team coached by one of the best people I have ever been involved with in Rpn Corry.

It looks like they have found some exciting prospects like Dustin Wells and Daniel Ahlfi to complement the old warhorses like Shovel Cervinski and Stuey Young!

AIS LAUNCH ITS 2002/2003 SEASON

By Graham Cooke

The Federal Government wants to awaken soccer, the sleeping giant of Australian sport, Federal Sports Minister Rod Kemp said in Canberra.

Speaking at the launch of the Australian Institute of Sport's soccer program, Kemp said that with

350,000 registered players, many of them juniors, the code was the envy of its rivals. "We are very keen to see it achieve its potential," he said.

"What we have done in a practical way is have an inquiry, under the chairmanship of David Crawford, which has started work and is now traveling around the country receiving submissions.

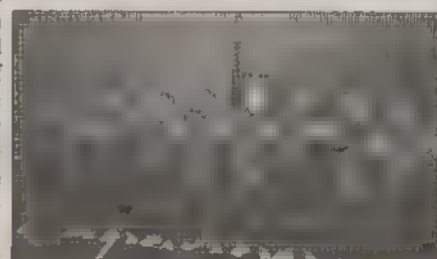
"We expect its report and recommendations by the middle of next year and we hope and expect these will present a platform from which we can advance soccer in this country."

He pointed out the Government supported soccer with some \$23

ments and what the top teams do that makes them successful," he said.

"We believe that with this strategic tool we will stay at the cutting edge of the sport, not just in Australia, but the world."

National coach Frank Farina spoke about his years as a scholarship holder at the AIS in 1982-83.



The current AIS scholarship holders.

"The whole place has changed dramatically since then," he said. "In my day there were no residences, hardly anything built except the basketball stadium. We stayed at the ANU in the first year, and at the CCAE (now the University of Canberra) in the second.

"I will say to the current group 'you are in the best soccer environment in Australia so enjoy it and take advantage of it as long as you can'. I certainly support the program - in the World Cup qualifiers against Uruguay 17 of the 22 players involved had been through the program."

Scholarship holders who received their shirts from Mr Kemp are: Adam Federici (NSW Institute of Sport), Ben Hughes (Newcastle United), Keegan Wolfenden (Northern Spirit), Chris Tadros (NSW Institute), Mark Milligan (Parramatta Eagles), Jobe Wheelhouse (Newcastle United), Liam Lilly (Canning City, WA), Ivan Bosnar (Sydney United), Adam Casey (ACT Academy of Sport), Billy Celestini (Victorian Institute of Sport), Anton Jankovski (Melbourne Knights), Eli Gifedder (Lismore), Mark Nedeljkovic (ACT Academy), Nick Stavroulakis (NSW Institute), Stuart Musialik (Newcastle United), Frankie Lagana (Whitelsea Stallions), Aaron Downes (Bathurst 75), Joshua Fluss (Victorian Institute), Joel Theissen (Newcastle United).



Frank Farina and AIS coach Steve O'Connor in the background during AIS' launch.

million a year, of which slightly more than \$600,000 went to the AIS program. Institute head coach Steve O'Connor said the program was investing in a strategic performance unit that would undertake detailed video analysis of some of the top teams in the world to chart subtle developments in tactics.

"The game does not change that much from year to year, but we are seeking to look at tactical develop-

Valkanis and Force Share Mutual Administration

By Allan Crisp

Former South Melbourne and Olyroo squad defender Michael Valkanis has brought seven seasons of overseas professional experience to Adelaide City Force and both parties could not be happier.

Melbourne-born Valkanis threw his hat into the fully professional ranks as a tender 21-year old, starting his tour of discovery with Greek first division club Iraklis Salonika. He moved in turn to Larissa FC before ending his stay in Greece with second division outfit Agiosnikolaos.

It was with Iraklis that Valkanis was chosen to play against Cypriot club Apollon in a UEFA Cup game.

He tallied 57 NSL games for South Melbourne before leaving Australia, but Valkanis advises present day youngsters with professional stars in their eyes that 21 is too young to venture into the full time ranks.

"I was far too cocky for my age then," Valkanis said. "I believe I should have spent at least two more seasons in the NSL before leaving."

"There were so many class players in the South Melbourne team then and I could have learnt a lot more from them."

One of his career regrets is missing an Olympic Games berth in 1996 after ripping a hamstring muscle playing for South against Melbourne Knights in an NSL major semi-final game. Before he jetted out on his lone venture Valkanis received an offer from the then fledgling, Perth Glory.

"Had I known what a big club Perth would become I probably would have joined them," the tough defender mused. But, Valkanis is convinced that he has found the team of his dreams in Adelaide City Force, cherishing the day that he heard the voice of City coach Charley Villani on the phone line.

"Charley had heard that I was a free player and when he told me about the players the club had recruited, I was sold on the idea.

"I knew that Adelaide City was a founding member of the NSL and that it had a proud history."

He made a flying start with his new club scoring in the first two

games of the season for a 1-1 draw with Melbourne Knights and a follow up goal in City's 2-1 away win over Marconi. Adelaide was amazed that a defender should be its leading goalscorer, but he revealed to ABSW that he scored 12 times for Larissa playing out of defence. Under those circumstances the Valkanis taste for bursting the onion bag should not be surprising. Valkanis also remembers netting from the penalty spot for South Melbourne against the Knights in 1995. Man marking was his specialty in the past, but he prefers the more adventurous style of breaking from either the sweeper or stopper



Michael Valkanis has been Adelaide City Force's stand-out player this season.

position. The no-nonsense defender was aware that City has fallen on hard times in recent seasons, but his admiration of his new team-mates knows no bounds.

"I've been in many clubs, but this Adelaide City team has the best spirit of any of my previous clubs," he enthused.

"It's like a family atmosphere, friendly and happy and there's a great fighting spirit among the players."

That tough as teak approach was apparent with the Force coming from behind to either share the points or win their opening four matches.

The bad news for SA soccer buffs is that Valkanis will be returning to Melbourne at the end of the year.

However, the good news is that the visit to his home town will be brief, while he and his childhood sweetheart Venita are wed in the company of their respective friends and families.

Changes in the Act Premiership

By Graham Cooke

The ACT Premiership and State League could be combined next season, with the abandonment of the under-23 division and a separate youth structure, under one proposal being given consideration by ACT clubs.

Senior League vice-chairman Vince Taglieri, speaking on behalf of chairman Walter Valeri who had only just returned from Italy, said the clubs were given two weeks to study the proposals and come back with comments and suggestions for further refinement.

"It is in broad outline only at

the moment," Taglieri said. "We have not considered details such as on what day of the weekend the clubs play.

"But 16 clubs have shown interest in the new system and want to take it further, including a look at promotion and relegation throughout the competition."

The proposals have an added urgency after Monaro became the latest club to defect from the ACT Premiership, reducing the competition to seven clubs. In contrast, the ACT State League has prospered with 10 teams in the first division and 12 in some of the others going down to division six.

Indonesia seek Australia-based friendly fixture

The Indonesian FA want to organize a friendly fixture with Frank Farina's Socceroos for later this year. Tribalfutbol.com stated on their website.

It is said that Indonesia have already approached Soccer Australia about the game, which could be held this year or early in the New Year.

With the relationship between the country's governments now stronger following the tragedy in Bali two weeks ago, news of the proposed fixture is sure to generate interest from both the Indonesian and Australian media.

Tribalfutbol.com has learned Fiji are also keen to help fill the Socceroos' vacant international programme and want to organize an Australian-based friendly for

later this year.

Soccer Australia are believed to be considering both proposals, along with several European invitations for the coming months. A tour by a full-strength Argentina is also up for consideration for mid-2003.



Frank Farina: Socceroo coach.

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2002/03

NYL WRAP-UP

This week's National Youth League wrap started on Friday with the Wollongong Wolves displaying why they are one of the teams to beat by scoring a four-nil victory over the ACTAS.

Goals from Leighal Dellis, Ben Bartlett, Dezman Giraldo and live-wire striker John Majurovski gave Eddie Tessoro's men the three valuable points that boosted them to third position.

While the other Friday night fixture saw the AIS defeat the QAS four-nil to move Steve O' Connor's squad to fourth on the ladder.

Young Adam Casey grabbed a double while former Parramatta Eagles player Mark Miligan and striker Mark Nedeljkovic gifted the easy victory for the AIS. Sunday's matches saw Olympic Youth draw nil-all to a determined Newcastle Youth squad.

Both youth sides have not started on the right foot however signs are evident that their hoping to gain a finals entry come end of the season.

Trevor Morgan's Parramatta Power defeated the Stallions youth side three-nil that left his side one point adrift from first position.

Hopeful U17 Joey Angelo Martino, striker Mark Bridge and first grade player Ray Younis all bagged a goal each to assure the Power the three points. While in the youth league's final match, Tony Pezzano's young youth side defeated the youthful Marconi Mustangs four-nil. First grade player Jon Angelucci claimed a hat trick while Peter Markovic added United's other goal. Canberra Deakin and Northern Spirit Youth played out the bye. Deakin's Michael Spaleta is currently leading the NYL scorers charts with six goals while Power's Peter Gavaghan is second with five, followed by Wolves first team player Dino Mennillo with four.

This week's main fixtures see Sydney United Youth entertain the Wolves youth side while it's a local derby in the nation's capital with new boys Canberra Deakin entertaining the AIS at Hawker Oval.

Canberra Deakin Queensland Academy of Sport ... 1

By Graham Cooke

Canberra Deakin coach Vlado Horvat generally takes an optimistic view of the world, but even he agreed he had not thought that little more than a month into their

debut season, he would be in charge of a National Youth League-topping team that had scored 11 goals in eight days.

Speaking moments after Deakin had beaten the Queensland Academy of Sport 5-1 to go with a 6-1 thrashing of Sydney United the week before, Horvat said his team

Wollongong News

By Otto Bader

Wolves Maintain Harmony

Success will come with perseverance, one must work at motivating the players, relax depriving pressure and inject a winning feeling.

The next games are crucial for the future of the Wolves. South Melbourne, Sydney United and then at home on Sunday 10th November at WIN Stadium. The home crowd is needed to cheer the boys on to overcome Northern Spirit and their success on the field will bring the reluctant Wollongong fans out in numbers. To keep a NSL team in the City the local supporters have to attend in strength.

Head coach Ron Corry has a full squad of 23 to fall back on, only minor knocks keeping the odd one from taking the field. A welcome return to match fitness comes with the dynamic Dino Mennillo, showing good form after overcoming an earlier pre-season leg injury. He is one of the stayers of the championship winning side.

Illawarra Soccer Latest

Important dates for decisions are coming up next month for the Association which need to be made by the forthcoming Annual General Meeting of the ISA on Sunday 15th December.

The format of the two competitions - ICU Premier League and Conference League with 12 and 16 teams, has already been set for 2003 by a previous vote of the clubs. It is not an ideal playing calendar but cannot be altered short term. This decision was guided by personal

agendas.

Considering the number of member clubs remains steady one would wish a draw with home and away fixtures preferable. If additional teams do apply for admission to the Association it could be possible to create three divisions of 10 teams or more in each competition.

Obviously many more proposals are being tabled from time to time, no matter how practicable or futuristic, on first glance looking attractive but sometimes not adoptable for our present soccer set-up or the clubs, even some of them puerile for Illawarra circumstances.

A point of discussion concerns the number of teams fielded by each club - at present 3 grades are required. A trend has shown up to nominate only two - a First Grade and a Youth Grade team with overage players permitted. The Association would lose 28 teams or around 400 plus players who would be looking to play elsewhere. In that case the cost to run the Association could be affected, the registration fees would be diminished.

A solution perhaps lays in an amalgamation with the Amateur Association, running at present 36 teams in 3 divisions.

With the steady growth of soccer these administration problems of pleasing all are increasing, very difficult to solve. There is no easy answer but with good will things can be sorted out.

In the final analysis the market forces, demand and supply, will decide who will prosper or vanish, no matter if the club is a long time original foundation member or a newly established soccer club. Many famous names have been lost over the last 10 years or so.

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2002-03 NORTHERN DIVISION - RESULTS RD 6

FRIDAY 25 OCTOBER 2002

Wollongong Wolves Youth 4 ACTAS 0

(Dellis 5', Bartlett 19', Majurovski 65', Giraldo 75')

AIS 4 QAS 0

(O'Connor 10', Casey 20', Miligan 30', Nedeljkovic 40')

SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER 2002

Olympic Sharks Youth 0 Newcastle United Youth 0

Marconi Stallions Youth 0 Parramatta Power Youth 3

(Casey 10', Martino 20', Bridge 30', Younis 40')

Marconi Mustangs 0 Sydney United Youth 4

(Spaleta 10', Pideski 20', Gavaghan 30', Mennillo 40')

MATCH BROUGHT FORWARD FROM RD 23 -

27 OCTOBER 2002

Canberra Deakin 5 QAS 1

(Spaleta 27', pen 58' 83', Pideski 49', Gavaghan 75', Mennillo 85')

BYE - Canberra Deakin

BYE - Northern Spirit Youth

LADDER - ROUND 6

	P	W	D	B	L	F	A	Pts
Canberra Deakin	6	4	0	1	2	20	7	12
Parramatta Power Youth	5	3	2	1	1	12	2	11
Wollongong Wolves Youth	5	3	1	0	1	15	5	10
AIS	4	2	2	2	0	6	1	8
Olympic Sharks Youth	5	2	2	0	2	6	7	8
Northern Spirit Youth	5	2	1	1	2	4	3	7
Sydney United Youth	4	2	0	0	2	6	8	6
Newcastle United Youth	5	1	3	0	1	3	6	6

was coming together well after a hurried pre-season preparation.

"We showed a lot of character today. Queensland is not a bad side," he said "With the score at 1-1 at half time we changed the system to give us a more attacking flavour and we adapted well."

The game was still in the balance after the first 45 minutes. Despite a lion's share of play, Deakin had only a penalty, scored by captain Michael Spaleta after Carl Pideski had been brought down by Dane Richardson in the 27th minute.

Then Queensland had got back on terms when a bad defensive lapse left Tim Smits clear to strike a firm shot past goalkeeper Stewart Vella.

But the second half quickly saw the game slide away from the visitors. Pideski restored Deakin's lead, then Spaleta made it 3-1, before substitute Paul Ivanic, who has struggled to find scoring form this season, put those troubles behind him with a well-taken goal in the 71st minute.

CANBERRA - DEAKIN:

Vella, Borg, Harris, Rezo, Ison, Caputo (Santos 72), Munoz, Cerda-Gid (Ivanic 46), Spaleta, Pideski, Selby (La Butte 57).

QAS: Paterson, Burley

(Grossman 75), Richardson, De Silva, Hagell, Davidson, Smits, Tunishin (Dean 65), Griffin, A. Smith, Langemann 10, Nedeljkovic.

REFEREE: Graeme Vines.

CROWD: 120

ACTAS	3	1	0	2	5	7	3
Marconi Stallions Youth	4	1	0	2	7	7	3
QAS	4	1	0	2	14	3	
Marconi Mustangs	5	0	0	2	18	1	

FIXTURES - ROUND 7

FRIDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2002

ACTAS v Olympic Sharks Youth

SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2002

Northern Spirit Youth v Marconi Mustangs

QAS v Marconi Stallions Youth

SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2002

Sydney United Youth v Wollongong Wolves Youth

Canberra Deakin v AIS

BYE - Newcastle United Youth

BYE - Parramatta Power Youth

SOUTHERN DIVISION - Round 6

V/SF Development Squad	0	Whittlesea Stallions SC	3
Thomastown Devils SC	3	Heidelberg United SC	0
Melbourne Knights Youth SC	2	Bulleen Zebras SC	2
Essendon Royals SC	2	Melb Knights Academy SC	2
Preston Lions SC	3	South Melbourne SC	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
1. Melbourne Knights Youth SC	8	6	1	1	21	6	19
2. Whittlesea Stallions SC	7	6	1	1	17	5	19
3. South Melbourne SC	8	5	1	1	18	8	16
4. Bulleen Zebras SC	8	4	2	2	14	14	14
5. Thomastown Devils SC	7	4	1	1	17	13	13
6. Melbourne Knights Academy SC	7	3	1	1	15	15	10
7. Preston Lions SC	8	3	0	5	12	19	9
8. Essendon Royals SC	7	2	1	4	10	10	7
9. Heidelberg United SC	8	1	0	7	5	18	3
10. V/SF Development Squad	8	0	0	8	7	21	0

climb to the top of the league everyone tries that little bit harder to beat you," he said.

"But that is the test for players and I hope they will begin to attract the attention of coaches of senior sides who will be interested in developing their careers further."

In a game in which there were

no bookings on the field, Brisbane coach Bruce Stowell was involved in a verbal clash with referee Graeme Vines resulting in Stowell spending the last 30 minutes of the match behind the crowd barrier.

In their double-header weekend in Canberra, the QAS lost 4-0 to the Australian Institute of Sport on Friday night.

PREMIERSHIP BIZARRO

Nige and Fergy here from BananaTV's Premiership Bizarro. Every week we're going to give you our views and opinions on what's going on, and off, in the English Premiership.

Same Old Ingerland, if there is a difficult way to qualify for a tournament then we will find it. This time it is Spunky Seaman who supplied the calamitous moment. After the World Cup goalkeeping debacle, just when you thought it was safe to call him Ingerland's Nol, he gets caught out direct from a corner. Spunky, it is time to hand over the shirt to a more competent youthful keeper, with a sensible haircut. You might say you are still enjoying it...However, you are killing us!

David O'Leary, passed over by Sunderland in favour of Boot Camp Wilkinson, although gagging to get back into football, has hit out at rumours that agents are touting his name around for Time Warp Taylor's job at Villa. He is rumoured to have said that Shamus Paudyal and Dermot O'Leary are not his "official" agents and should stop terrorising Taylor and leave

that to his players.

Talking about Sunderland and their coup of landing the world's most sought after manager, Boot Camp Wilkinson. He was quoted in a tabloid as saying that there would be a marked difference in discipline and he would be cram-

ming a whole pre-season into a week. Needless to say The Black Cats lost 1-0 to the Hapless Hammers, due to the fact that the team were knackered after a week of Camp Wilko. We think that Sunderland have just booked their place in Division 1 for next season.

Good Ol' Gary Lineker, he is about to sink 1 million quid of his own hard earned into beleaguered Leicester City which should be half as much as nasty Dennis Wise will be seeking if he decides to go ahead with a loss of earnings law suite which is rumoured to total 2.3 million quid. Our advice to Leicester is to get onto the FA for QC and,

Meatloaf collaborator, Jim Sturman's phone number. He's nailed Royston Keano and Harold Shipman, Wise should be a push over.

Royston got his slapping from the aforementioned QC, a 5 game ban and 150 grand fine, - the largest in Premiership history. Congratulations Royston, another one for the Hall of Shame. This leaves him on the sideline for 5 weeks to stew and get really really angry, building to a grand return to the land of red cards. It is also rumoured that if Royston appeals the FA will throw the largest book they can find at him. Like the Bible or War and Peace? Only a mug would take the chance. Watch this space.

See you next week. Nige and Fergy

To catch Nige and Fergy on Premiership Bizarro, their internet TV show, go to www.bananatv.com

And click on Premiership Soccer. New episodes added each week. Don't miss it.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

After Round 6

After Round 6	TOTAL							PTS	HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	BYE	F	A		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A
OLYMPIC SHARKS	6	4	2	0	0	11	4	14	3	3	0	0	6	0	3	1	2	0	5	4
PERTH GLORY	6	4	0	2	0	9	6	12	3	2	0	1	6	4	3	2	0	1	3	2
ADELAIDE CITY FORCE	5	3	2	0	1	10	8	11	3	1	2	0	5	4	2	2	0	0	5	3
NEWCASTLE UNITED	6	3	0	3	0	9	4	9	3	3	0	0	9	0	3	0	0	3	0	4
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	5	1	4	0	1	8	7	7	3	1	2	0	5	4	2	0	2	0	3	3
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	6	1	4	1	0	5	5	7	3	0	2	0	0	0	3	1	1	1	5	5
NORTHERN SPIRIT	5	2	1	2	1	7	13	7	2	1	0	1	4	6	3	1	1	1	3	7
FOOTBALL KINGZ	6	1	3	2	0	7	6	6	3	0	2	1	2	3	3	1	1	1	5	3
SYDNEY UNITED	5	1	3	1	1	4	4	6	2	1	1	0	3	1	2	0	2	1	1	3
PARRAMATTA POWER	6	1	3	2	0	7	8	6	3	0	1	2	3	6	3	1	2	0	4	2
SOUTH MELBOURNE	5	1	2	2	1	5	6	5	2	1	1	0	3	1	3	0	1	2	2	5
BRISBANE STRIKERS	6	1	1	4	0	11	16	4	2	0	0	3	4	8	3	1	1	1	7	8
MARCONI STALLIONS	5	0	1	4	1	3	10	1	3	0	1	2	3	6	2	0	0	2	0	4

MARCONI STALLIONS 0 PARRAMATTA POWER 2

(B Renaud 28, K Salepas 54)

Referee: Angelo Neri **Crowd:** 2,750 **Venue:** Marconi Stadium
Cautions: D M. Donald (MS) 38, C Gibson (MS) 60, N Onic (PP) 36, A Farah (PP) 70
Teams: MARCONI STALLIONS: Turnbull, Gibson, Webb, Longo, Pernich, McDonald, Enes, Brague, Last (Talevski 63), Sekulic, Cotte.
Subs Not Used: Fitzsimons, Thwaite, Alogdelis (gk).
PARRAMATTA POWER: Roddy, Cecchi, Onic, Beauchamp, Thompson, O'Sullivan, Zorbas 78, Cardozo, Brown, Sijadakis (Brown 86), Renaud, Langdon 52, Ench.
Subs Not Used: Jukovic (gk)

OLYMPIC SHARKS 1 NEWCASTLE UNITED 0

(J Porter 39')

Referee: Eddie Lennie **Crowd:** 2,513 **Venue:** Toyota Park
Cautions: A Packer (OS) 30', M Hilton (OS) 72', T Dodd (NU) 73'.
Teams: OLYMPIC SHARKS: Bolton, Juric, Srhoj (Ishida 59'), Pondeljak, Halpin, North, Hilton (Byrnes 80'), Harris (Caravella 45'), Porter, Packer, Durante.
Subs Not Used: Hughes (gk).
NEWCASTLE UNITED: Beltrame, Thomas, Bingley, Dodd, Tsekenis (Hughes 88'), Baillie, Blagojevic, Masi (R Griffiths 67'), A Griffiths, Middleby, Eagleton.
Subs Not Used: Roberts, Willis (gk)

WOLLONGONG WOLVES 0 SOUTH MELBOURNE 0

Referee: James Lewis **Crowd:** 3,286 **Venue:** Wade Park, Orange.
Cautions: N Sekulovski (WW) 57', B Farah (WM) 87'.
Teams: WOLLONGONG WOLVES: Crews, Austin, Stanton, Cervinski, Castro (Mennillo 62'), Wells (Babic 77'), Lyons, Young, Sekulovski, Farah, Huxley.
Subs Not Used: Heffernan, Whalan (gk).
SOUTH MELBOURNE: Anastasiadis, Durakovic, Liparoti, Clarkson, Coveny, Trimboli (Baird 62'), Buljan, Lia, Tolios, Damianos, Iosifidis.
Subs Not Used: Murdoch, Galekovic (gk).

ADELAIDE CITY FORCE 2 FOOTBALL KINGZ 1

(P Almendra 40, pen)

Referee: Craig Zeiler **Crowd:** 2,396 **Venue:** Hindmarsh Stadium
Cautions: M Valkans (ACF) 38, C Peters (ACF) 54, C Veart (ACF) 75, R de Gregorio (FK) 35, C Jackson (FK) 46, S Turner (FK) 57.
Teams: ADELAIDE CITY FORCE: Gidjev, Ljajic, Karovic 83', Kovacevic, Valkans, Palegini, Pantaris, Veart, Vidmar, Lozanovski, Knap 70', Tuntinacze (Smetz 76'), Pelosi.
Subs Not Used: Martin (gk).
FOOTBALL KINGZ: Bannatyne, Taylor (Turner 76'), Atkinson, Jackson, Almendra, Ljajic (Vidmar 46'), Vlahos, Ngata, de Gregorio (Dempsey 61'), Mizazawa, Pritchett.
Subs Not Used: Nil

PERTH GLORY 3 SYDNEY UNITED 0

(D Mori 9', 74')

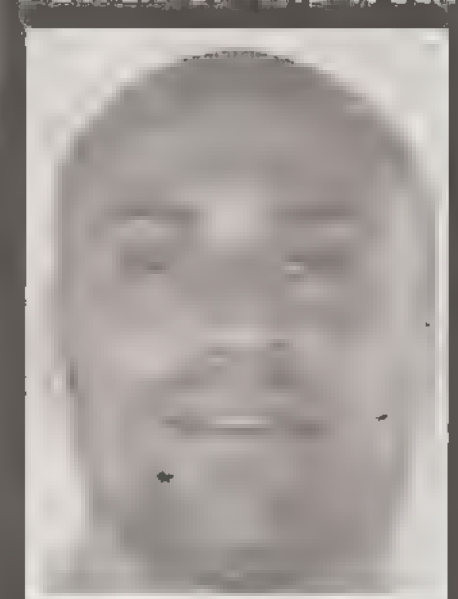
Referee: Mark Shield **Crowd:** 7,595 **Venue:** Perth Oval
Cautions: D Mori (PG) 27', B Santalab (SU) 36, B Cacic (SU) 40.
Teams: PERTH GLORY: Petkovic, Harnwell, Hassell (Garcia 84'), Gunprecht, Miller, Mridja (Despotovski 78'), Junior Mori, Fana (Coyne 85'), Pryce, Tarka.
Subs Not Used: Franken (gk).
SYDNEY UNITED: Ivesa, Cacic (Collina 67'), Bilokapic, Arrarte, Lukac, Jedinak (Doumanis 72'), M Santalab, Bran, Menapi, B Santalab, Rudan.
Subs Not Used: Deur, Perosh (gk)

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 3 BRISBANE STRIKERS 3

(A Pelikan 8', H Fa'Arodo 39', 50')

Referee: Ben Williams **Crowd:** 3,873 **Venue:** Knights Stadium
Cautions: I Jolic (MK) 35', D Piorkowski (MK) 73', M John (MK) 93', L Lapsansky (MK) 93', P Grierson (BS) 45', S Laybutt (BS) 83', W Heath (BS) 87', D Dreger (BS) 91'. **Red Cards:** P Grierson (BS) 71'.
Teams: MELBOURNE KNIGHTS: John, Piorkowski, Vargas, Marth, Vasilevski, Sabljak, Jolic, Cervinski, Fa'Arodo (Sulemani 86'), Pelikan (Ovcin 70'), Lapsansky.
Subs Not Used: Kovacic, Hrehoresin (gk).
BRISBANE STRIKERS: Kearton, Alagich (Dreger 80'), Stefanutto, McKain, McLaren, Grierson, Rech, Laybutt, Pilic (Heath 72'), McKay (Carbone 86'), Roche.
Subs Not Used: Baldock (gk)

PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Fernando Rech (Brisbane Strikers)

Last season's ABSW player of the year award winner Fernando Rech showed last Sunday afternoon why he is the Strikers best player by scoring two goals - one in the 93rd minute via the spot-kick to earn Brisbane a hard earned one point away from home against the Melbourne Knights with ten-men.

Rech has scored six goals in six matches, that's 100% accuracy from the ace marksman.

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Name	Club	Total
MORI Damian	Perth Glory	6
RECH Fernando	Brisbane Strikers	6
NGATA Heremaia	Football Kingz	4
GRIFFITHS Joel	Newcastle United	4
BROSQUE Alex	Marconi Stallions	3
GRIERSON Peter	Brisbane Strikers	3
ALMENDRA Patricio	Football Kingz	3
VIDMAR Aurelio	Adelaide City Force	3

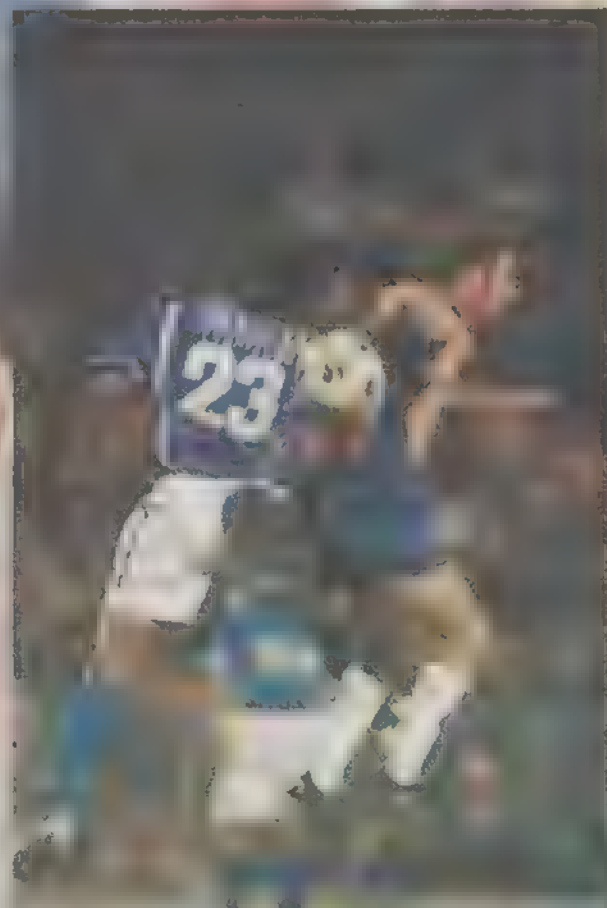
BYE - NORTHERN SPIRIT

MARCONI
STALLIONS

National League Action Between Marconi Stallions vs Parramatta Power



By
Carlos Furtado





Queensland Lions' 2002 Annual Awards Night



CHRIS DAY Lions' 23-year-old central defender proudly displayed to ABSW his League Champions Medal together with his individual Player's Portrait.



Willie Wallace (former Celtic & Scotland Great), presented **Ben Fisher** The Lions' Youth sweeper with his 'Special Achievement' Trophy.



Todd Gava recipient of the Lions' 'Players' Player' from **Claude Baradel** (Luxury Paints sponsored).

RECENTLY crowned as the League Champions, the roaring Queensland Lions also saw their Reserves, (coached by Chris Hollis), as well as their Youth Grade squads, (coached by Paul Schiavo), race to 'first past the post' to complete the Club's magnificent record-breaking Season. The Senior Lions team won the Championship for the 11th time having gone undefeated throughout the season.

The Lions last week celebrated their highly illustrious record-breaking Season in fine style with a glittering Awards Dinner which was attended by 200 guests that included all Major Lions' Sponsors plus Special Guests Johnny Warren and former Celtic and Scotland great, Mr Willie Wallace.

The Lions' Major Sponsors attending the Dinner included 'Luxury Paints', 'Demalex Services', 'Better Design Homes' plus 'Statewide Sports'.

Without doubt the Star for the evening was Todd Gava, the Lions' mobile 21 year old utility defender who tackled both Major Awards. The pacy Gava, (born and raised in the NSW town of Lismore),

'scored' the 'Best and Fairest Player' award as well as the coveted 'Players' Player' trophy. John Warren, was flown from Sydney to make the presentation to Gava in Brisbane.

Former Scotland international Willie Wallace presented to Youth team sweeper Ben Fisher, the 'Special Achievement' award. This talented 16 year old sweeper later in the evening also took out the 'Youth Player's Player' trophy.



Ace marksman, **Reece Tollenare**, scored the 'Golden Boot' award having nailed 18 goals from the Lions total of 65 for the season.

'Youth Most Improved' taken out by stopper Michael Mason, whilst the 'Youth Best and Fairest' was won by striker Jayce Gilchrist.

In the Reserves, the 'Players' Player' award was gloved by goalie Shaun Falkenhagen whilst the reliable right-defender Sean Curtis tackled the 'Best And Fairest' award.

'Youth Player Of The Year' was snared by Chris Grossman.

A special trophy was also awarded to the Lions' long-serving Stadium curator, Mr David Gwynne, for his 20 years of unyielding loyal service.

So meticulous are Mr Gwynne's horticultural skills, that despite the Richland Stadium's main pitch having had no less than 180 games played on it, the playing surface at the end of the Season still retained a highly lush, thick green top.

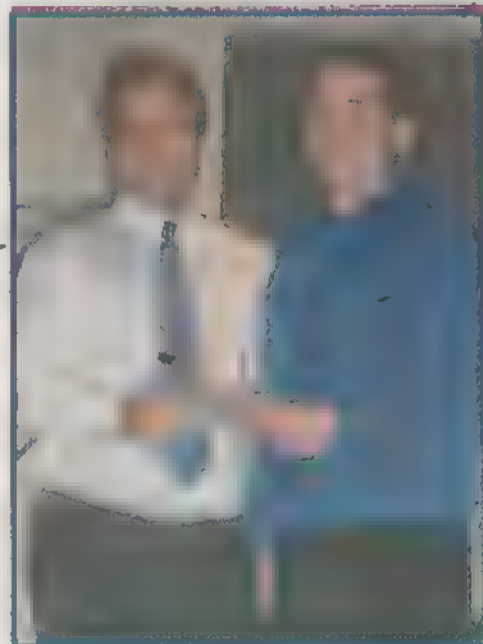
The Lions' Master-Coach Miron Bleiberg in addressing the guests, proudly stated: "Our achievements this season will make up a significant part of our Club's history. We broke all records in Queensland Soccer."

The evening's format not only was colourful, classy and exciting, but was captured on video, a wonderful innovative brainchild of the Lions' industrious Marketing Director, Mr Les Moodley.

All guests attending the lavish Dinner, received a copy of the Lions' record Season on D.V.D., chocolates, a Club Orange-coloured pen, plus a carefully compiled 16 page full coloured gloss Lions' 2002 Presentation Dinner Programme.



Lions' Chairman and former Australian International Gary Wilkins presents Head Coach **Miron Bleiberg** with his Champion's Coaching Trophy.



MIKE BABBAGE (L), presented **Todd Gava** with his \$1,000 cheque for winning the "Best and Fairest" Award.



Ace goalscorer, Reece Tollenare with **Miron Bleiberg**. (Reece won the 'Golden Boot' award for the most goals scored in the Queensland Premier League).



Todd Gava with **Johnny Warren** and the "Best & Fairest Trophy". Todd won the "Players' Player" award as well as the "Best & Fairest".



(From left to Right) - **Bill Dawson** (Football Director), **Miron Bleiberg** (Premier League Coach), **Johnny Warren**, **Gary Wilkins** (Chairman), **Les Moodley** (Marketing Manager) and **Lawrence Oudendyk** (C.E.O.)

National League Round 6 Report

Melbourne Knights

Brisbane Strikers

By Alan Clark

Brisbane Strikers overcame a two-goal deficit and being a player short to draw three-all against Melbourne Knights at Knights Stadium on Sunday night.

Knight's had scored through Ante Pelikan and two from Henry Fa'arodo, and the

Strikers had managed two in reply from Rech and David Pilic before Peter Grierson got his marching orders for his second yellow card with more than fifteen minutes still to play.

As the full points seemed in Knights' knapsack, a moment of madness involving Knights' goalkeeper Martin John upending Rech in the penalty-area led to the penalty and

Rech's equaliser that brought this enthralling contest to an end.

"Over-all, I think a draw was a fair result," said Knights' player-coach Andrew Marth after the game. "We were totally outplayed (in the) first half. We addressed the situation (in the) second half and I thought we played better."

Knight's livewire midfielder Pelikan opened the scoring when he outsped a square Strikers' back line onto a cleverly weighted diagonal ball played in by Daniel Vasilevski from the right, and found himself facing only Strikers' goalkeeper Jason Kearton.

Kearton had to race from his line and met the ball at the same time as Pelikan outside his penalty-area.

Pelikan's touch was better, and he was able to reach the ball again before being closed down, lifting it into the now unguarded net.

Brisbane levelled within twenty minutes from a corner swung in to Steve Laybutt at the edge of the penalty-area. Laybutt had time and space to control the ball and feed Rech who side-footed home from eight metres.

Fa'arodo was the unwitting scorer who re-took the lead for Knights five minutes before the break. It came from a goal-mouth scramble which arose following referee Mark Williams' award of a free-kick at the edge of the penalty-area when Jonathan McKean fouled Adrian Cervinski.

The free-kick was blasted

into a crowd of players, and Marth was first to respond, sending in a shot which was cleared from the goal-line, but into Fa'arodo's shins and over the line. Fa'arodo's second goal was considerably more intentional and came when Cervinski split the square Strikers' back line with a little through-pass which the Solomon Islander pounced on as Laybutt trailed in his wake.

Kearton made himself sufficiently large enough to make the target small, and for Fa'arodo to place his shot onto the post. But it was an easy enough job for him to follow up and tap home from two-metres. If the home fans thought a two-goal lead would give them some breathing-space, their comfort disappeared within two minutes. With good link-up play, the Strikers took advantage of Pelikan being caught in pos-



Lubo Lapsansky battles with Strikers star Fernando Rech for the ball during last week's clash that ended in a three-all draw.

session, playing the ball wide for a defence-splitting cross to Pilic who then lobbed Knights' keeper John from 16 metres.

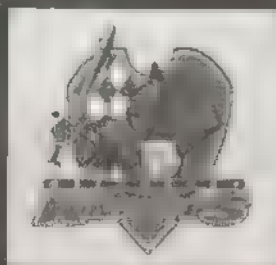
Brisbane must have fancied their chances to graft them-

selves back into the game such as their approach to the game from the very beginning, but a second yellow-card to Grierson with more than fifteen minutes to play seemed to prove an overly onerous burden. Grierson had earned his first card just before the break for a foul on Pelikan, and transgressed again in the second with undisciplined play in a tussle with Marth near the corner-flag.

The Strikers equalizing goal came when Marth and Johns had collided as the ball came in, leaving Rech a clear passage to goal. Johns fouled Rech in an attempt to prevent the equaliser, preferring to concede the penalty.

"I blame (Martin) John," said Marth. "He gave me a call (for the ball at the same time) as the ball hit my head. Martin had a great game, but that's Martin."

BAD BOY OF THE WEEK



(Melbourne Knights & Brisbane Strikers)

Bad Boys of the week I should say for this week goes to both the Melbourne Knights and Brisbane Strikers squads for being shown 8 cautions - four each side and a red going to Peter Grierson of the Strikers in a spiteful match of football.

Referee Ben Williams was a busy man in the middle dishing out cautions to Andy Marth and John Kosmina's men.

Nevertheless the match ended three-all much to the delight of the fans that watched a bit of an extravaganza.

FROM THE Dressing Sheds

By Mark Stavroulakis

It's good to see Perth Glory's German import Andre Gumprecht's wife Carina recovering well from what appeared to be meningococcal meningitis last week. The German star was left devastated after he heard the news of his wife and son (Mark) contracted the dangerous disease but was glad to see them both on the road to recovery.

ABSW wishes Carina and Mark a healthy recovery.

It was disappointing to hear the news of the Brisbane Strikers crowd statistic at Ballymore that attracted 1,840 people!

A poor stat for Kossie's boys, the Strikers need as much support as they can get at this stage especially after having a great season last year, the club hopes to do one better in this season's competition.

Marconi's woes seem to continue as the club was recently fined from Soccer Australia for fielding an unregistered player during their round 3 home clash with the Adelaide City Force.

Youngster and former NSWIS graduate Paul Cotte was unfortunately the player involved. From all reports though Cotte has received the okay from SA to play the rest of the season after playing a strong 80-minutes of football in the Stallions one-nil defeat from the Knights.

It was good to see Everton's youngster Wayne Rooney

hit the headlines a few weeks back after claiming his sides winning goal that ended Arsenal's 30-match unbeaten run.

Here's hoping for Aussie youngster David Carney currently playing in Everton's reserves of hopefully gaining a start for the Merseysiders before the end of the Premier League season.

Carney, an ex-NSWIS graduate also has a sister (Michelle), who's currently playing for the NSW Sapphires. Soccer runs in the blood of the Carney family.

Rumour has it that sometime during the European football off-season next year; Spanish giants Real Madrid are said to be touring our shores?

ABSW will keep its readers updated with this issue in forth coming editions.

It's interesting to see that the famous number 10 jersey is currently unoccupied at the Marconi Stallions side.

Look - for Joe 'Spitfire' Spiteri to don the Marconi jersey in the next few weeks. The Stallions slumped to their fourth loss of the season and coach Blanco believes that the former Melbourne Knights striker will add more punch to their strike force.

Spiteri's last stint in the National League was with last season's Grand Finalists the Olympic Sharks where he made just four appearances with the club however had no luck in hitting the back of the net.

Word around Bob Jane Stadium is that if the

club manage to sign Con Boutsianis as a free agent, the club will face a backlash from its own supporters. Fans who hold membership at the club have been rumoured to be handing them in along with asking a refund if 'Bouts' makes the move, which is apparently on the cards in the next few weeks.

Bernd Stange isn't the only coach wanted by a Middle Eastern country, technical skills coach and former Yugoslav international Dusan Purac was approached by Kuwaiti officials for the role of developing youngsters in the region.

Unfortunately 'White Pele' refused the offer opting to promote his skills video show which is due for imminent release in England.

Sydney United recently compiled a list of current players displaying their day jobs apart from playing football.

Midfield maestro Gabriel 'Chi Chi' Mendez used to own his own take-away food outlet. Vinnie Savoca used to be a whiz as an accountant.

Nahuel Arrarte worked at a sports store but is currently assisting Westfields Sports High Soccer coach Trevor Morgan with the school soccer team.

Dave Barrett is currently a teacher at Westfields and have heard from students that he is the man when it comes to Maths.

Young Christian Cevinini is an electrician and tough man Paul Bilokpaic is a painter by trade. Finally crowd favourite Commis

Round 7 Fixtures

FRIDAY 1/11

Football Kingz	v	Melbourne Knights
Newcastle United	v	Adelaide City Force
Northern Spirit	v	Perth Glory

SATURDAY 2/11

Brisbane Strikers	v	Marconi Stallions
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SUNDAY 3/11

South Melbourne	v	Olympic Sharks
Sydney United	v	Wollongong Wolves
Bye - Parramatta Power		

Menapi assists Ivan 'Gilligan' Rendulic in maintaining the pitch in pristine condition.

It was good to see Ron Smith aka known as 'Smudger' hit the headlines a few weeks back thanks to the V-Bomber Mark Viduka.

The 'Dukesta' stated that Ronny Smith should be given a role in the Australian setup, not a bad call at all considering Smith was the man that helped so many promising young stars at the AIS for a number of years.

At this stage Socceroo coach Frank Farina is considering on giving Smith a role as technical director which should fit in nicely for the former AIS coach.

One player yet to pull on the jersey of the Power has been creative midfielder Brad Maloney.

A troublesome ankle injury has kept the 30-year-old sidelined since the start of the National League - a comeback date has yet to be announced.

It was pleasing to see Liam 'Rocket Jnr' Reddy behave

accordingly in his first match back from suspension after 'that punch'.

The giant keeper kept a clean sheet and the gloves on as the Power marched towards their first win of the year.

One interesting point before the Stallions-Power match was watching Assistant Power coach Manfred Schaefer warning up keepers Liam Reddy and Danny Vukovic before kick-off.

It was quite odd to see Power Goalkeeper coach Jim Fraser on the other side of the fence as an onlooker in the terraces - a development worth keeping an eye on.

Good to see Wolves coach Ronny Corry giving young striker Tallan Martin a run at training for the club.

The former AIS graduate played a season with Newcastle last year, however injury hampered his year and was said to be on his way to the Stallions this season.

The deal fell through and now the 20-year-old finds himself very close in signing a deal with the Wolves in January?

Round 8 Fixtures

FRIDAY 8/11

Marconi Stallions	v	Foball Kingz
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SATURDAY 9/11

Parramatta Power	v	Brisbane Strikers
Olympic Sharks	v	Sydney United

SUNDAY 10/11

Melbourne Knights	v	Newcastle United
Wollongong Wolves	v	Northern Spirit

Bye - Perth Glory

NEW SOUTH WALES FOOTBALL

www.soccernsw.com.au



NSW PREMIER LEAGUE SEASON 2002/2003

Season Launch

By Greg Stock



The NSW Soccer Federation have released the draw for the forthcoming Premier League season, some four weeks out from the commencement of round one. The twenty-two round home and away season kicks off on Saturday November 23, 2002, and concludes on Sunday May 4, 2003. The final series is scheduled to take place from May 10 finishing with the Grand Final on Sunday June 1 2003.

For the first time in many years we will see the reintroduction of the spare weekend on the 15th and 16th of February 2003, the date directly following round eleven. The idea behind this is to allow a spare weekend date to complete any deferred matches due to wet weather or other circumstances. There will also be a Christmas break on the weekend of December 28 and 29 to allow for players and fans to enjoy the festive season.

With games being distributed between Saturday and Sunday there looks to be plenty of opportunity for fans to get out there and see as many as two games per weekend. The late afternoon and evening kickoff times on Saturday (5pm and 7pm) and Sunday (4pm and

6pm) in summer will allow for the players to avoid the heat in the middle of the day, with the Sunday matches reverting to the more traditional kick off time of 3pm for first grade and 1pm for under 19s. This starts in round 17 (March 30th) and continues until the conclusion of round 22.

In round one action the two key Saturday night match ups are Belconnen Blue Devils hosting Bonnyrigg White Eagles at their new ground, McKellar Soccer Centre, while down at John Crehan Park Cringila, Rockdale City Suns will celebrate their first Premier League match when they meet the Central Coast Coasties. The Blue Devils will be launching their new McKellar Soccer Complex in fine style with the official opening of the grandstand and a friendly game between a Presidents XI and the Belconnen Old Boys prior to the first grade kickoff. Former Socceroo skipper Johnny Warren will be the clubs special guest for the night, with a bumper crowd expected. Rockdale City Suns are also planning a big Saturday evening for their first round showing against the Central Coast as they seek to entice some sup-

port from the local Illawarra community. The other matches to complete the Saturday night round include Bankstown City hosting last years league champions Parramatta Eagles at Jensen Park, Penrith Panthers at home to St George at Andrews Road Field, while on Sunday Fairfield Bulls will meet the new look APIA-Leichhardt at Nineveh Field while Brian Brown will take his Demons across town to Henson Park to meet Greg Woodhouse and his Berries.

The key derby games have been spaced through the year and include the Rockdale City Suns v Bankstown City clash at John Crehan Park on Saturday December 14, 2002, and the two oldest rivals in the league in St. George and APIA-Leichhardt meeting on Sunday December 15 2002 at St. George Stadium. For a replay of last years Grand Final, fans will need to hold out until Saturday January 18 2003, when Blacktown City host Parramatta Eagles at the Gabbie, before they again host their arch rivals Bonnyrigg White Eagles a week later, again at Gabbie Stadium.

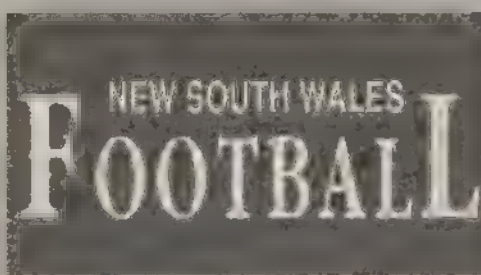


NSW Premier League

CENTRAL COAST



Belconnen Blue Devils new McKellar Soccer Centre.



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SEASON FIXTURES 2002/2003

ROUND 1

Team	Team	Date	Kick-Off	Ground
Belconnen Blue Devils	v	Sat. 23-Nov-02	7:00pm	McKellar Soccer Centre
Penrith Panthers	v	Sat. 23-Nov-02	7:00pm	Andrews Road Field
Bankstown City Lions	v	Sat. 23-Nov-02	7:00pm	Jensen Park
Rockdale City Suns	v	Sat. 23-Nov-02	7:00pm	John Crehan Park
Fairfield Bulls	v	Sun. 24-Nov-02	6:00pm	Nineveh Field
Canterbury Marrickville Olympic	v	Sun. 24-Nov-02	6:00pm	Henson Park

ROUND 2

Team	Team	Date	Kick-Off	Ground
Blacktown City Demons	v	Sat. 30-Nov-02	7:00pm	Gabbie Stadium
Central Coast Eagles	v	Sat. 30-Nov-02	7:00pm	Plum Park
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v	Sat. 30-Nov-02	7:00pm	Serbian Centre
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	v	Sun. 1-Dec-02	6:00pm	Lambert Park
St George Saints	v	Sun. 1-Dec-02	6:00pm	St George Stadium
Parramatta Eagles	v	Sun. 1-Dec-02	6:00pm	Melita Stadium

ROUND 3

Team	Team	Date	Kick-Off	Ground
Belconnen Blue Devils	v	Sat. 7-Dec-02	7:00pm	McKellar Soccer Centre
Penrith Panthers	v	Sat. 7-Dec-02	7:00pm	Andrews Road Field
Bankstown City Lions	v	Sat. 7-Dec-02	7:00pm	Jensen Park
Fairfield Bulls	v	Sun. 8-Dec-02	6:00pm	Nineveh Field
Canterbury Marrickville Olympic	v	Sun. 8-Dec-02	6:00pm	Henson Park
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	v	Sun. 8-Dec-02	6:00pm	Lambert Park

ROUND 4

Team	Team	Date	Kick-Off	Ground
Blacktown City Demons	v	Sat. 14-Dec-02	7:00pm	Gabbie Stadium
Central Coast Eagles	v	Sat. 14-Dec-02	7:00pm	Plum Park
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v	Sat. 14-Dec-02	7:00pm	Serbian Centre
Rockdale City Suns	v	Sat. 14-Dec-02	7:00pm	John Crehan Park
Parramatta Eagles	v	Sun. 15-Dec-02	6:00pm	Melita Stadium
St George Saints	v	Sun. 15-Dec-02	6:00pm	St George Stadium

ROUND 5

Team	Team	Date	Kick-Off	Ground
Belconnen Blue Devils	v	Sat. 21-Dec-02	7:00pm	McKellar Soccer Centre
Penrith Panthers	v	Sat. 21-Dec-02	7:00pm	Andrews Road Field
Bankstown City Lions	v	Sat. 21-Dec-02	7:00pm	Jensen Park
Fairfield Bulls	v	Sun. 22-Dec-02	6:00pm	Nineveh Field
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	v	Sun. 22-Dec-02	6:00pm	Lambert Park
St George Saints	v	Sun. 22-Dec-02	6:00pm	St George Stadium

ROUND 6

Team	Team	Date	Kick-Off	Ground
Central Coast Eagles	v	Sat. 4-Jan-03	7:00pm	Plum Park
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v	Sat. 4-Jan-03	7:00pm	Serbian Centre
Blacktown City Demons	v	Sat. 4-Jan-03	7:00pm	Gabbie Stadium
Rockdale City Suns	v	Sat. 4-Jan-03	7:00pm	John Crehan Park
Canterbury Marrickville Olympic	v	Sun. 5-Jan-03	6:00pm	Henson Park
Parramatta Eagles	v	Sun. 5-Jan-03	6:00pm	Melita Stadium

ROUND 7

Team	Team	Date	Kick-Off	Ground
Belconnen Blue Devils	v	Sat. 11-Jan-03	7:00pm	McKellar Soccer Centre
Penrith Panthers	v	Sat. 11-Jan-03	7:00pm	Andrews Road Field
Fairfield Bulls	v	Sun. 12-Jan-03	6:00pm	Nineveh Field
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	v	Sun. 12-Jan-03	6:00pm	St George Stadium
St George Saints	v	Sun. 12-Jan-03	6:00pm	Melita Stadium
Parramatta Eagles	v	Sun. 12-Jan-03	6:00pm	Melita Stadium

ROUND 8

Team	Team	Date	Kick-Off	Ground
Bankstown City Lions	v	Sat. 18-Jan-03	7:00pm	Jensen Park
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v	Sat. 18-Jan-03	7:00pm	Serbian Centre
Central Coast Eagles	v	Sat. 18-Jan-03	7:00pm	Plum Park
Blacktown City Demons	v	Sat. 18-Jan-03	7:00pm	Gabbie Stadium
Rockdale City Suns	v	Sat. 18-Jan-03	7:00pm	John Crehan Park
Canterbury Marrickville Olympic	v	Sat. 18-Jan-03	7:00pm	Henson Park

ROUND 9

Team	Team	Date	Kick-Off	Ground
Belconnen Blue Devils	v	Sat. 25-Jan-03	7:00pm	McKellar Soccer Centre
Blacktown City Demons	v	Sat. 25-Jan-03	7:00pm	Gabbie Stadium
Fairfield Bulls	v	Sun. 26-Jan-03	6:00pm	Nineveh Field
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	v	Sun. 26-Jan-03	6:00pm	Lambert Park
St George Saints	v	Sun. 26-Jan-03	6:00pm	St George Stadium
Parramatta Eagles	v	Sun. 26-Jan-03	6:00pm	Melita Stadium

ROUND 10

Team	Team	Date	Kick-Off	Ground
Penrith Panthers	v	Sat. 1-Feb-03	7:00pm	Andrews Road Field
Central Coast Eagles	v	Sat. 1-Feb-03	7:00pm	Plum Park
Bankstown City Lions	v	Sat. 1-Feb-03	7:00pm	Jensen Park
Rockdale City Suns	v	Sat. 1-Feb-03	7:00pm	John Crehan Park
Fairfield Bulls	v	Sun. 2-Feb-03	6:00pm	Nineveh Field
Canterbury Marrickville Olympic	v	Sun. 2-Feb-03	6:00pm	Henson Park

ROUND 11

Team	Team	Date	Kick-Off	Ground
Belconnen Blue Devils	v	Sat. 8-Feb-03	7:00pm	McKellar Soccer Centre
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v	Sat. 8-Feb-03	7:00pm	Serbian Centre
Rockdale City Suns	v	Sat. 8-Feb-03	7:00pm	John Crehan Park
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	v	Sun. 9-Feb-03	6:00pm	Lambert Park
St George Saints	v	Sun. 9-Feb-03	6:00pm	St George Stadium
Parramatta Eagles	v	Sun. 9-Feb-03	6:00pm	Melita Stadium

ROUND 12

Team	Team	Date	Kick-Off	Ground
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v	Sat. 22-Feb-03	7:00pm	Serbian Centre
Blacktown City Demons	v	Sat. 22-Feb-03	7:00pm	Gabbie Stadium
Central Coast Eagles	v	Sat. 22-Feb-03	7:00pm	Plum Park
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	v	Sun. 23-Feb-03	6:00pm	Lambert Park
St George Saints	v	Sun. 23-Feb-03	6:00pm	St George Stadium
Parramatta Eagles	v	Sun. 23-Feb-03	6:00pm	Melita Stadium

ROUND 13

Team	Team	Date	Kick-Off	Ground
Belconnen Blue Devils	v	Sat. 1-Mar-03	7:00pm	McKellar Soccer Centre
Penrith Panthers	v	Sat. 1-Mar-03	7:00pm	Andrews Road Field
Bankstown City Lions	v	Sat. 1-Mar-03	7:00pm	Jensen Park
Rockdale City Suns	v	Sat. 1-Mar-03	7:00pm	John Crehan Park
Fairfield Bulls	v	Sun. 2-Mar-03	6:00pm	Nineveh Field
Canterbury Marrickville Olympic	v	Sun. 2-Mar-03	6:00pm	Henson Park

ROUND 14

Team	Team	Date	Kick-Off	Ground
Blacktown City Demons	v	Sat. 8-Mar-03	7:00pm	Gabbie Stadium
Central Coast Eagles	v	Sat. 8-Mar-03	7:00pm	Plum Park
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v	Sat. 8-Mar-03	7:00pm	Serbian Centre
Rockdale City Suns	v	Sat. 8-Mar-03	7:00pm	John Crehan Park
St George Saints	v	Sat. 8-Mar-03	7:00pm	St George Stadium
Parramatta Eagles	v	Sun. 9-Mar-03	6:00pm	Melita Stadium

ROUND 15

Team	Team	Date	Kick-Off	Ground
Belconnen Blue Devils	v	Sat. 15-Mar-03	7:00pm	McKellar Soccer Centre
Penrith Panthers	v	Sat. 15-Mar-03	7:00pm	Andrews Road Field
Bankstown City Lions	v	Sat. 15-Mar-03	7:00pm	Jensen Park
Fairfield Bulls	v	Sun. 16-Mar-03	6:00pm	Nineveh Field
Canterbury Marrickville Olympic	v	Sun. 16-Mar-03	6:00pm	Henson Park
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	v	Sun. 16-Mar-03	6:00pm	Lambert Park

ROUND 16

Team	Team	Date	Kick-Off	Ground
Blacktown City Demons	v	Sat. 22-Mar-03	7:00pm	Gabbie Stadium
Central Coast Eagles	v	Sat. 22-Mar-03	7:00pm	Plum Park
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v	Sat. 22-Mar-03	7:00pm	Serbian Centre
Rockdale City Suns	v	Sat. 22-Mar-03	7:00pm	John Crehan Park
Canterbury Marrickville Olympic	v	Sun. 23-Mar-03	6:00pm	Henson Park
Parramatta Eagles	v	Sun. 23-Mar-03	6:00pm	Melita Stadium

ROUND 17

Team	Team	Date	Kick-Off	Ground
Belconnen Blue Devils	v	Sat. 29-Mar-03	7:00pm	McKellar SC
Penrith Panthers	v	Sat. 29-Mar-03	7:00pm	Andrews Road Field
Bankstown City Lions	v	Sat. 29-Mar-03	7:00pm	Jensen Park
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	v	Sun. 30-Mar-03	3:00pm	Lambert Park
St George Saints	v	Sun. 30-Mar-03	3:00pm	St George Stadium
Fairfield Bulls	v	Sun. 30-Mar-03	3:00pm	Nineveh Field

ROUND 18

Team	Team	Date	Kick-Off	Ground
Bankstown City Lions	v	Sat. 5-Apr-03	7:00pm	Jensen Park
Central Coast Eagles	v	Sat. 5-Apr-03	7:00pm	Plum Park
Blacktown City Demons	v	Sat. 5-Apr-03	7:00pm	Gabbie Stadium
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v	Sat. 5-Apr-03	7:00pm	Serbian Centre
Rockdale City Suns	v	Sat. 5-Apr-03	7:00pm	John Crehan Park
Canterbury Marrickville Olympic	v	Sun. 6-Apr-03	3:00pm	Henson Park

ROUND 19

Team	Team	Date	Kick-Off	Ground
Belconnen Blue Devils	v	Sat. 12-Apr-03	7:00pm	McKellar Soccer Centre
Penrith Panthers	v	Sat. 12-Apr-03	7:00pm	Andrews Road Field
Fairfield Bulls	v	Sun. 13-Apr-03	3:00pm	Nineveh Field
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	v	Sun. 13-Apr-03	3:00pm	Lambert Park
St George Saints	v	Sun. 13-Apr-03	3:00pm	St George Stadium
Parramatta Eagles	v	Sun. 13-Apr-03	3:00pm	Melita Stadium

ROUND 20

Team	Team	Date	Kick-Off	Ground
Bankstown City Lions	v	Sat. 19-Apr-03	7:00pm	Jensen Park
Penrith Panthers	v	Sat. 19-Apr-03	7:00pm	Andrews Road Field
Central Coast Eagles	v	Sat. 19-Apr-03	7:00pm	Plum Park
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v	Sat. 19-Apr-03	7:00pm	Serbian Centre
Rockdale City Suns	v	Sat. 19-Apr-03	7:00pm	John Crehan Park
Canterbury Marrickville Olympic	v	Sun. 20-Apr-03	3:00pm	Henson Park

ROUND 21

Team	Team	Date	Kick-Off	Ground
Belconnen Blue Devils	v	Sat. 26-Apr-03	7:00pm	McKellar Soccer Centre
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v	Sat. 26-Apr-03	7:00pm	Serbian Centre
Blacktown City Demons	v	Sat. 26-Apr-03	7:00pm	Gabbie Stadium
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	v	Sun. 27-Apr-03	3:00pm	Lambert Park
St George Saints	v	Sun. 27-Apr-03	3:00pm	St George Stadium
Parramatta Eagles	v	Sun. 27-Apr-03	3:00pm	Melita Stadium

ROUND 22

Team	Team	Date	Kick-Off	Ground
Penrith Panthers	v	Sat. 3-May-03	7:00pm	Andrews Road Field
Bankstown City Lions	v	Sat. 3-May-03	7:00pm	Jensen Park
Central Coast Eagles	v	Sat. 3-May-03	7:00pm	Plum Park
Blacktown City Demons	v	Sat. 3-May-03	7:00pm	Gabbie Stadium
Canterbury Marrickville Olympic	v	Sun. 4-May-03	3:00pm	Henson Park
Fairfield Bulls	v	Sun. 4-May-03	3:00pm	Nineveh Field

CARE: SATURDAY 15th & SUNDAY 16th FEBRUARY — RESERVED FOR WET WEATHER RESCHEDULED FIXTURES

GROUND INFORMATION			
Andrews Road Field	Andrews Rd, Penrith	McKellar Soccer Centre	Owen Dickson Drive, McKellar
Gabbie Stadium	Quinn, Avenue Seven Hills	Melita Stadium	Everey Rd South Granville
Henson Park	Centennial St Marrickville	Nineveh Field	Smithfield Rd Edensor Park
Jensen Park	Clapham Rd Sefton	Plum Park	Tuggerah St Lsarrow
John Crehan Park	Jarvie Rd, Cmgila	Serbian Centre	Simpson Rd Bonnyrigg
Lambert Park	Marion St, Leichhardt	St George Stadium	Beste St Rockdale
Note: This draw is subject to change. Check the website (www.nswpremierleague.com) for the latest news			

Final Series	
Elimination & Preliminary SF	10th or 11th May 2003
Major & Minor Semi Finals	17th or 18th May 2003
Preliminary Final	24th or 25th May 2003
Grand Final	Sunday 1st June 2003

From the Sidelines

By Greg Stock

*After impressing during recent trials, **Blacktown City** and Luke Roodenburg have finally agreed to terms for season 2002/3. The former **Parramatta Power** striker joins the club after a couple of seasons in the NSL, and with his skill and experience; he should fit in nicely alongside David Reid on the Demons forward line. "He is an outstanding talent," said Assistant Coach Nick Bilby, "and we are very excited to have a player of his ability on the books."

*Ex Central Coast midfielder Adam Peatey is close to signing a new deal with **Fairfield Bulls** and link up with his former **Ryde City** team mate Craig Sharpley. A former Blacktown City junior, Peatey is a handy pickup able to play on either flank or the centre of the midfield.

"I'm really looking forward to linking up with Sharps (Craig Sharpley) and helping the Bulls make the top five this year" said Peatey. "I had a break during the winter and I feel so much better, ready to have a big year for the Bulls." Peatey has also linked up with Zenith Football Management under Chris Tanner.

***St George** coach Manny Spanoudakis has announced his major signings for this year, surprising many pundits who thought his side would struggle to attract quality talent. The major coup is the recruitment of ex Olyroo Sebastian Sinozic from **Sydney United** who turned down a number of offers to sign with the club. Partnering Sinozic in defence will be sweeper Jose Mendes from **Rockdale City Suns** and Luke McDougal from **Sydney University**.

Mendes will be the starting sweeper while McDougal will play stopper, though he is more than capable of playing up front if the situation warrants it. Goalkeeper Con Anastasiadis returns to the Premier League fold after a season off and according to Spanoudakis is looking as sharp as ever, while Jason Lal and Ali Salim will strengthen the midfield.

*One Saint who will miss the start of the season is striker Bruno Beddoni. After spending the winter in Division One, Beddoni has returned to St George Stadium with a groin injury that looks set to keep his training to a minimum during the pre season.

"Bruno is still super keen to play again this year and I know he can make a significant impact for us" said coach Manny Spanoudakis.

played two matches in two days, meeting **A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt** on Saturday at Seymour Shaw Park and then venturing out to **Kingswood** to meet the **Penrith Panthers** on Sunday. The club made the most of the weekend, staying at Federation headquarters at Parklea, using the trip as a team bonding exercise as well as some much needed match practise. On Saturday, a lone goal from Marko Perinovic was enough to see them home 1-0 with defender Elliot Zwangobani and **A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt** midfielder Michael Galluzzo both sent off for indiscretions. On Sunday, they made it two wins from two starts, coming back from a 2-0 deficit to win 3-2. Goalscorers were Michael Katz, Daniel Macor via a penalty and Andy Rakic while the Panthers found the net through Danny Hinton and Rod Hutchinson. Best players were Matt Cachia and Lee Pietrukowski, while Michael Katz was the pick against A.P.I.A.

On Saturday evening at the Serbian Centre, **Bonnyrigg White Eagles** took on **Parramatta Eagles** and came away with a convincing 3-0 win. For the home side Joe Brunr looked in good touch, while Adam Anderson had a strong second half for the Eagles. New recruit Tim Gledhill played his first game in weeks after recovering from a leg injury while John Kelso and Matty O'Shea had a strong outing for the visitors. Up at Plum Park, Lee Sterrey put his **Bankstown** side through their paces against the **Central Coast**. After a tough first half hour, on a pitch that was less than favourable, the Lions got on top, putting four past the hapless Coasties. Goalscorers were Norman Tome with two, Colin Luff and Richard Luksic.

*Soccer fans in Canberra should tune into 103.9FM "The Good Sports" at 8pm on a Wednesday night to hear Ralph Smith and Nick Guoth present the **Blue Devils Weekly Soccer Show**. The hour long programme will take an indepth look at the Premier League and the fortunes of the **Blue Devils**, with news, interviews analysis and, special guests.

"I have given him some time off to work on his own and get the injury right before he comes back to us, but I am not counting on him until Christmas, anything sooner being a bonus."

Beddoni scored 9 goals in 12 appearances last year after it appeared his Premier League career was all but over. "He is still a class act," warned Spanoudakis, "and if he can get back to the form of late last season, he will score plenty."

*Trial game action from last weekend - **Belconnen Blue Devils**

Last Season: Finished 11th W1-D8-L13

2003 Coach: Tony Rasmussen - Second Season, Osvaldo El Ali Assistant Coach

Last Seasons Top Scorer: Rod Hutchinson 11 goals

Ins: Peter Bennett (Parramatta Power), Ben Wright (Season Off), Matthew Bloomfield (Overseas), Chad Lewis (Blacktown City on loan)

Outs: Chris Giometti (Released)

Club Review: The Panthers may not have made much of an impression on the competition last season, but with such a young squad, the side took a huge step forward under coach Tony Rasmussen.

Concentrating on developing a number of their



CLUB PREVIEW Penrith Panthers

key youngsters, they showed enough to suggest they can match it with the big boys, though inexperience did ultimately cost them in the tight games.

The big plus for the club is their local support-base which continues to pack the grandstand at Andrews Road Field each Saturday night, as they remain the only club to have their home games broadcast on local radio.

Playing Roster: Coach Tony Rasmussen has managed to keep his young squad largely intact through the off-season. The likes of Jason Sciberras, Tim O'Connell, Rod Hutchinson and

David Gardiner are another year older and set to make their mark at this level. Throw into the mix former Parramatta Power midfielder Peter Bennett and sweeper Ben Wright and all of a sudden the side takes on a much tougher look.

Veteran striker Ossie El Ali will continue to make key contributions from the bench, doubling as Rasmussen's assistant coach.

Aims: "We are not going to be the easy beats this year, nor will we be lying down for any side," said coach Tony Rasmussen.

"Our aim over the past few years has been to develop a key group of youngsters and we now

have them to the point where we feel they can take the next step and make the semi-finals. Peter Bennett is a key addition for us and with the likes of Ossie El Ali still around the club, they will be the key figures of experience to make sure we keep focused on our aim."

Player To Watch: Peter Bennett: How high the Panthers finish on the table, will depend on how influential Bennett can be in the big matches. Rasmussen is expected to make him the team's midfield general with much of the play flowing from his boot, to keep the likes of Tim O'Connell and Rod Hutchinson with plenty of possession.

An NSL veteran, Bennetts experience will be invaluable on and off the park, where he is expected to be one of

Last Season: Finished 10th W4-D5-L13

2003 Coach: Manny Spanoudakis Second Season, Danny Silvestri Football Operations Manager

Last Seasons Top Scorer: Bruno Beddoni 9 goals

Ins: Jose Mendes (Rockdale City Suns), Sebastian Sinozic (Sydney United), Luke McDougal (Sydney University), Orhan Dincer (Dulwich Hill), Jason Lal (A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt), Con Anastasiadis (Season Off), Ali Salim (Dulwich Hill), Nicholas Tavouktsis (Marconi), Phil Weston (Wollongong City)

Outs: Stacy Alogdelis (Marconi), Sal Zullo (Western Rage), Nabil Codmani (Western Cedars), John Fotiadis (Ryde City), Steve Papadopoulos (Released), Nick Mandic



CLUB PREVIEW St George Saints

(Released), Mladen Damjanovic (Liverpool Bossy SC)

Club Review: Having almost gone to the wall financially, early last season, the Saints are back on solid footing and looking to reestablish themselves in the Premier League.

President Ross Gardiner and Secretary Dot Buckley have stabilized the club off the park in preparation for a year of consolidation. This year will represent the beginning of a three-year rebuilding process for the club with the aim of avoiding relegation the top priority.

Playing Roster: Make no mistakes, the 2003 version of the Saints looks a vastly more experienced one than its predecessor. Jose Mendes, Luke McDougal and Sebastian Sinozic form a very tough back three that can match it with any side in the competition. Goalkeeper Con Anastasiadis returns from a season off and if veterans Bruno Beddoni and Evangelos Petratos can remain fit, the Saints are more than capable of springing a few surprises.

Aims: "Our aim is to consolidate on and off the park this year" said coach Manny Spanoudakis. "Last year I inherited a team, but

this season will be a lot different and I am very confident we have the players capable to achieving our aim to avoid relegation and finish mid-table.

We have set a modest and sensible budget to our footballing operations and feel we have the right blend of experienced and younger players to have a strong year."

Player to Watch: Orhan Dincer - He came from almost nowhere in the winter super league season, scoring 4 goals in a sporadic campaign with Dulwich Hill.

A former Australian Schoolboys representative two years back, Dincer has spent 6 months with Samsunspor in the Turkey First Division before returning to Australia. Coach Manny Spanoudakis has earmarked this kid for big things this year, and with veteran Bruno Beddoni as his partner, expect plenty of fireworks on the Saints forward line.



Women's Soccer



WOMEN'S NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

SAPPHIRES SEE TO VISION

The NSW Sapphires continued on from their previous week's win with a resounding 3-0 victory over the Victoria Vision at a wind-swept Christie Park, North Ryde.

The NSW Sapphires began the game with a somewhat re-shuffled line up due to the suspension of Anissa Tann, the injury of Julie Murray and the unavailability of Matilda's Kelly Golebiowski (overseas) or Thea Siatyer (overseas).

Dimitra Poulos made her Sapphires debut in the Sapphires goal ahead of Cassie Kell. The re-arranged backline found Lisa Gilbert replacing the suspended Anissa Tann with Kathryn Collins also returning to the starting eleven. The midfield too was re-organised with Kylie Ledbrook and Leah Blayney taking their places in the middle of the park with captain Taryn Rockall, and Michelle Carney and Jo Burgess remained in their traditional roles out wide. Sarah Walsh and Danielle Small led the Sapphires attack up front.

Running with a southerly wind in the first half, the Sapphires took the early advantage with Michelle Carney taking the ball down the left side and providing a number of quality crosses within the first few minutes causing a couple of goal mouth scrambles to wake up the Victorian defence. In the 8th minute, the Sapphires capitalised on a poor clearance from the Vision, which landed at the feet of Kylie Ledbrook who slotted a defence splitting ball to fellow midfielder Leah Blayney inside the box. Blayney was then faced with an oncoming Vision goalkeeper, Melissa Barbieri, but remained composed and side-footed underneath her to open the account for the Sapphires.

Following the goal, the NSW women began to assert their authority on the game, dominating the midfield with some great passing and movement off the ball. Unfortunately for the hosts, they were unable to find the net due to lack of composure in front of goal and generally poor finishing, although to their defence the windy conditions did not make the job any easier.

Also struggling under the conditions, the Vision rarely threatened, but did rally late in the half to create a couple of opportunities. The first came in the 40th minute when Louisa Bisby let off a shot from outside the box, but Dimitra Poulos was never troubled with the ball sailing well over the bar. The second came a minute before half time when a cross from the Vision's left found an unmarked Sarah Fitzgerald loitering just inside the box. Unfortunately, her attempted right foot volley didn't quite come off clean with Poulos again watching the ball go high and wide.

The second half saw the wind swing around from the south to the east, with little advantage for either team. The Sapphires continued to apply the same pressure that they had on the Vision before the break, with more

opportunities created. In the 54th minute, confusion again in the Vision defence when Bisby cleared off the line, only for the ball to land at the feet of Taryn Rockall. Only a breakdown in communication between Rockall and fellow midfielder Carney prevented an almost certain goal. It was a similar scenario 5 minutes later when a cross from Danielle Small on the right found Carney at the far post, with her resultant shot deflecting off Rockall and into touch much to the relief of the Vision players.

The Sapphires were rewarded for their persistent efforts in the 61st minute when Sarah Walsh found herself on the end of a deft through ball and another one-on-one opportunity against Barbieri. Walsh showed much composure to quickly assess the situation and slide an inch perfect ball across the advancing Barbieri to an empty net to give the home team a two goal advantage.

After the second goal was recorded, the Sapphires let the pressure off a little, and gave the Vision a chance to try and threaten. But everything the Vision threw at the NSW defence, was answered with little fuss. The best Vision opportunity came in the 75th minute when Bisby again fired a shot, this time directly at the well positioned Poulos who was never troubled.

With both teams making substitutions to affect a change in the flow and pace of the game, it was the Sapphires who benefited most. The introduction of Catherine Cannuli for Sarah Walsh created a few dangerous moments for the Vision defence. In particular a left foot screamer from Cannuli in the 85th minute was denied by an acrobatic save by Barbieri.

At the end of regular time, substitute Neisha Klessattel, evaded the Vision sweeper to lay off to Cannuli who found herself again one-on-one with Barbieri. Cannuli faked and dribbled around the current Matildas keeper, but found herself on the left side of the goal, on by-line, around the 6-yard box. With little angle to play with, Cannuli again let loose with the outside of her left foot to sneak a goal in at the far post to put the game in the bag for the Sapphires.

Sapphires coach Alan Stajcic, was again pleased with the result but also concerned with a few areas.

"We had to work hard for the result today. The windy conditions again made it difficult to control the ball well, and our passing was also lacking in a couple of instances," said coach Stajcic.

"The fact that we missed many opportunities in the first half meant that we made life difficult for ourselves, and we probably should have gone into the break up by a couple more goals," he said.

Next week the Sapphires travel to Canberra to face the Eclipse in a replay of last year's Grand Final. The Sapphires will be definitely out to seek retribution for their 1-0 loss the last time they met, and also to cement their position in the top two of this year's competition.



Sarah Walsh on her way to goal.

Kylie Ledbrook about to unleash.



WNSL ROUND 3 RESULTS:

NSW SAPPHIRES 3 VICTORIA VISION 0
(Blayney 8, Walsh 60',
Cannuli 90')
at Christie Park, North Ryde, NSW

NSW Sapphires:

16 Dimitra Poulos, 5 Lisa Gilbert, 3 Lisa Warriner (21 Neisha Klessattel 83'), 4 Kathryn Collins, 11 Michelle Carney, 17 Leah Blayney, 10 Taryn Rockall, 7 Kylie Ledbrook, 8 Joanne Burgess, 18 Danielle Small (20 Hayley Todd 83'), 19 Sarah Walsh (13 Catherine Cannuli, 66')
Subs Not Used: 1 Cassie Kell, 14 Nicole Kimber
Yellow Cards: Nil
Red Cards: Nil

Victoria Vision:

20 Melissa Barbieri, 21 Katrina Smith, 22 Rache Lamb, 4 Sarah Greenwald, 11 Amy Skvarc, 17 Lauren Farrugia, 7 Sarah Fitzgerald, 12 Louisa Bisby, 9 Leigh Terek (8, Georgia Koutrouvelis 46'), 19 Andrea Tomicic, 3 Lucy Balta (14 Paula Masscut 60') & (16 Jessica Humble 80')
Subs Not Used: 2 Kim Mueller, 25 Nabila Saliba
Yellow Cards: Katrina Lamb 39'
Red Cards: Nil

Referee: Sharon O'Neill
Assistant Referees: Leanne McNamara, Michele Phillips
Fourth Official: Amelia Morris

Women's Soccer

SOCCER AUSTRALIA WOMEN'S NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

By Janene Mar

Queensland Sting have stretched their lead to three points at the top of the WNSL ladder after a deserved 2-0 victory over defending champions Canberra Eclipse in today's Round 3 top of the table clash. NSW Sapphires and Adelaide Sensation also secured victories and both overtake Eclipse on points.

STING THE TEAM TO BEAT

Queensland Sting have stood up as the team to beat this season and are well on track having already defeated both of last season's grand-finalists, Canberra and NSW Sapphires.

On Sunday in Canberra, the Sting were reliant on their quick forward line on the counterattack early in the contest and still looked the more dangerous on goal at this stage despite Eclipse dominating possession of the ball for the opening twenty minutes. As the game wore on, although at times it lapsed into a scrappy battle, it was Queensland who gradually held the upper hand all over the park. Eclipse looked sluggish for much of the game, rarely looked in the hunt and had trouble penetrating in attack.

Queensland took the lead in the 36th minute when a defensive slip allowed the lurking Natalie Thomas to dribble in on goal for a simple finish, low past the keeper. It was the first goal Canberra had conceded for the season. The home side, with their first real chance of the game, almost levelled five minutes later but Amy Wilson's attempt was smothered well at close range by keeper Claire Nichols.

Sting doubled their lead eleven minutes after the break, a Heather Garriock corner cleared back out to her by the defence. This time Garriock's lob back into the goalmouth was fumbled by keeper Luisa Marzotto, and Bryony Duus was on hand to put away the crumbs from the ensuing scramble. Belinda Dawney, Lana Harch, and Thomas each came close to adding to the 'maroon' account, before Canberra's Kristyn Swaffer rocked the frame of the goal with a freekick in stoppage time.

Eclipse: Marzotto, Swaffer, Borucinski, Davies, Taylor (Brew 65), Rukavina (D Hepperlin 72), Karp, P Hepperlin, Thomson, Wilson, Munoz (Parker 30).

Sting: Nichols, Garven (Hohnke 72), Reuter, Grant, Canham (Harch 65), McShea, Garriock, Duus, Mann, Thomas, Dawney (Mitchell 77).

SENSATION VICTORS IN TIGHT BATTLE

Adelaide Sensation posted a 2-1 victory over Northern NSW Pride in what was a fairly evenly fought encounter in Newcastle. The difference proved to be Sensation's greater effectiveness in finishing their attacking moves, whilst Northern's tended to break down in the final play.

Adelaide took just three minutes to claim the lead. A corner kick was parried out but not cleared by Northern's defence, the ball falling for Lisa De Vanna who smacked it into the back of the net from just outside the 18-yard box. Leanne Slater scored her first WNSL goal seven minutes into the second half, her 20 metre strike flying in just under the bar.

Northern NSW Pride finally pulled one back with six minutes remaining, Katie Gill finding the target from long range high into the net. Pride made a late surge for the equaliser with some good chances but without success.

Pride: Hunter, Alley, Dunne, Stevens, Wilson, Neilson, Colthorpe, Baker, McMinn, Crawford, Gill.

Sensation: Trmboli, May, Benoist, Walsh, Blacker, Stocco, Salisbury, Madden (Harrison 79), Slater (Sabljak 60), Ralph (Katianos 8), De Vanna (Balomenos 87).

RESULTS

Canberra Eclipse 0
Queensland Sting 2
(Natalie Thomas 36m, Bryony Duus 56m)

at West Belconnen Leagues
Club Holt, ACT

Northern NSW Pride 1
(Katie Gill 84m)
Adelaide Sensation 2
(Lisa De Vanna 3m, Leanne Slater 52m)

at Jack McLaughlan Oval,
Edgeworth, NSW

NSW Sapphires 3
(Leah Blayney 8m, Sarah Walsh 61m, Catherine Cannuli 90m)
Victoria Vision 0

at Christie Park,
North Ryde, NSW

—WNSL TABLE—

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
QUEENSLAND STING	.3	3	-	-	12	1	11	9
NSW SAPPHIRES	.3	2	-	1	5	2	3	6
ADELAIDE SENSATION	.3	2	-	1	6	4	2	6
CANBERRA ECLIPSE	.3	1	1	1	4	2	2	4
VICTORIA VISION	.3	-	1	2	1	6	-5	1
NORTHERN NSW PRIDE	3	-	-	3	2	15	-13	0

—TOP GOALSCORERS—

3 -	Lisa De Vanna (Adelaide Sensation)
2 -	Heather Garriock (Queensland Sting)
	April Mann (Queensland Sting)
	Kate McShea (Queensland Sting)
	Natalie Thomas (Queensland Sting)
1 -	Leah Blayney (NSW Sapphires), Elissa Canham (Queensland Sting), Catherine Cannuli (NSW Sapphires), Rose Dunne (NNSW Pride), Bryony Duus (Queensland Sting), Katie Gill (NNSW Pride), Sarah Groenewald (Victoria Vision), Olivia Hohnke (Queensland Sting), Tal Karp (Canberra Eclipse), Taryn Rockall (NSW Sapphires), Danielle Small (NSW Sapphires), Stacey Stucco (Adelaide Sensation), Kristyn Swaffer (Canberra Eclipse), Amy Taylor (Canberra Eclipse), Sarah Walsh (NSW Sapphires), Amy Wilson (Canberra Eclipse)

NEXT ROUND

Adelaide Sensation

V

Queensland Sting

Date: **Saturday, 2nd November**
Kick-Off: 3.00pm

Venue: **Marden Sports Complex, Marden, SA**

Victoria Vision

V

Northern NSW Pride

Date: **Saturday, 2nd November**
Kick-Off: 11.30pm

Venue: **Kingston Heath Soccer Complex, Cheltenham, VIC**

Canberra Eclipse

V

NSW Sapphires

Date: **Sunday, 3rd November**
Kick-Off: 3.00pm

Venue: **West Belconnen Leagues Club, Holt, ACT**



Gallery Photos



ACTION FROM WNSL ROUND 3 AT CHRISTIE PARK



Danielle Small takes a shot.



Goal mouth scramble.



Lisa Warrener controls under pressure.



Defending the cross.



Lisa Gilbert was solid at the back.



Michelle Carney about to get tackled.



Leah Blayney goes up for the header.

NSW Soccer Federation

J-P's Coaching Tips

Hi Everyone,

Well, I'm finally back in Australia after spending two weeks touring through Thailand and China with Coerver. In the past couple of weeks, I kept you informed about our daily adventures, but this week, I'd like to tell you a little more about what I got out of the trip as an elite coach.

During my time away, I was fortunate enough to visit two major Football Complexes one in Thailand and one in China.

The Franz Benkenbauer Football Academy in Thailand is the venue that all their National Teams train. Thailand's youngest National Team is the u'13 and they train three to four times per week and assemble on a regular basis for camps, which might vary, from periods of two to six weeks. They also compete throughout Asia during the year.

In China we visited the Genbao Football Base where they have ninety five players, all u'13 and who are placed there on a fulltime basis. They are preparing these players for the 2012 Olympic Games. They train five days per week, mornings and afternoons. During the day they attend school, which is a huge part of the program. On weekends players are allowed to go home to spend time with their family. During the year they compete in tournaments around Asia and they also invite teams to spend time at the Football Base to train and play against.

I also spent time speaking to the Head Coaches of both academies regarding the type of players they identify and what type of program they focus on. They both gave similar answers. Good athletes, technically sound and a desire to succeed. They focus on technique (control & passing), movement off the ball and game awareness.

As you can see, identifying and developing elite players doesn't change no matter where you are in the world.

The above description leads us to this week's tip that will focus on control & passing. Good control or 'First touch' will give you time on the ball which will allow you to make proper decisions. Passing is a huge part of our game, correct passing technique will allow you to maintain possession. With possession you will be able to create opportunities to score goals.

There are a couple of drills you might want to use with your players throughout the year to improve these skills.

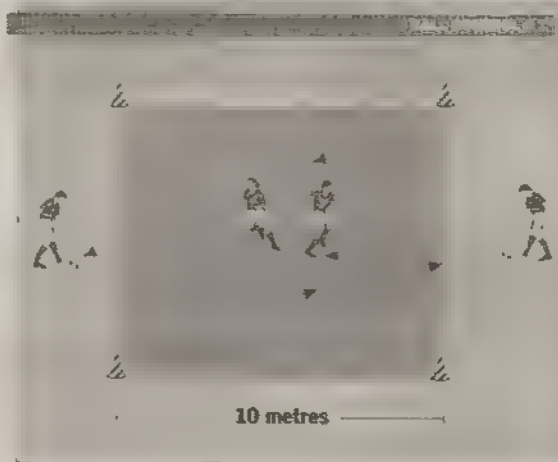
Control - Turn - Pass

This simple exercise incorporates ball control and passing and is an ideal warm-up drill if done with a little intensity.

The game is played in groups of 4 with 2 player in the middle of a 10m x 10m grid and 2 players at opposite ends.

The 2 players at opposite ends each start with a ball and play a low pass to one of the players in the middle.

The player in the middle then moves towards the oncoming ball, controls it, then turns with the ball and then passes to the player at the other end.



Once the players in the middle have received 10 passes each, the players on the outside then move to the middle and the middle players become passers.

When completing this drill, it is important that the players in the middle turn in the same direction, so as not to run into each other.

Variations to this drill include:

- Passing the ball in at different heights
- Each time a player in the middle receives a ball, they must combine a body fake before turning
- Only one ball is used and one player in the middle because a defender that the other player has to get away from to receive the ball, shield the ball and make the pass without interception.

2-v-2 + 2 Substitutes

An extension of the Control-Turn-Pass drill is the game based 2-v-2 + 2 Substitutes.

This is played on a 15m x 20m grid, which is divided with a half-way line along the long axis.

From two 4-man teams, two players from each team start in the middle with their teams mates starting in opposing corners (see diagram) as substitutes.

The idea of the game is for a team to keep possession for as long as possible.

A player in the middle may pass to their "substitute" in the corner, but then has to trade positions, and the passer then becomes the substitute, and the substitute then goes to the middle.

A point is awarded to a team when 5 passes are completed.

There are many variations to this game.

- The simplest variation is to restrict the number of touches to 2 or 3 touches. This forces a player to a) have a good first-touch, and b) to know where they are going to play the ball before they get the ball.

- To score at least one (or both) substitutes must be included in the passing

- Players can only pass to their substitutes when they are in the same half

- The addition of another player or one of the substitutes into the middle with only substitute in the corner

- Allowing the substitutes to roam along sections of the sideline to give them mobility.

So there you have it. Two drills for controlling and passing, that are fun and easy to coach.

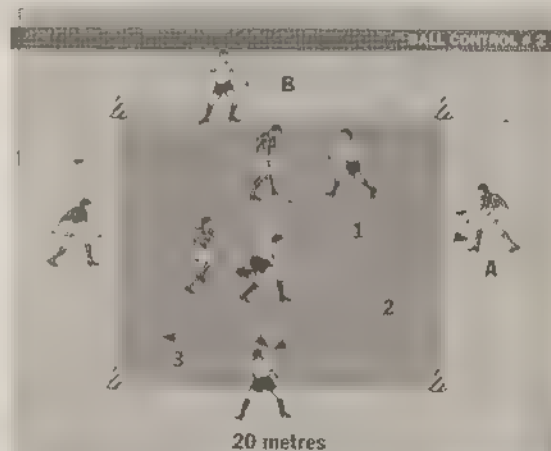
That's all for this week.

Until next week

Happy Coaching

Jean-Paul de Marigny
Coaching and Development Manager
NSW Soccer Federation

Diagrams taken from Success in Soccer: Basic Training - Techniques and Tactics for Developing the Serious Player (Ages 6-14)



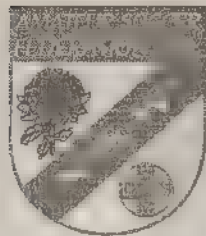
FIRST ANNUAL SYDNEY TOURNAMENT

An elite Under 17 tournament that will be held at Valentine Sports Park from the 11th-19th January 2003.

For more information contact the NSW Soccer Federation (tournament@soccernsw.com.au) or

check-out the website www.soccernsw.com.au

Hurry nominations are limited to 16 teams and close on Friday 29th November, 2002.



NSW Amateur Soccer Federation Limited

www.nswasf.com.au



CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS 2002 TOURNAMENT

How do you measure the success of a tournament?
Is it based on?

- a) the number of spectators,
- b) the number of teams,
- c) the helpful and friendly people involved in directing people to toilets, change rooms, parking, looking after lost children, directing players to the correct places for presentations & photos,
- d) the feed back from spectators regarding the little things designed to make the day more comfortable such as marquee for shade, extra food van, ice cream truck, free programs,
- e) great sponsors like Attack Sportswear giving each winning team a voucher for a full set of jerseys,
- f) the level of cheering during the presentations of awards

- g) the availability of team photos, individual photos, videos, Champion of Champions T-shirts and caps,
- h) the cheering during the games.

Well, if that's how you measure success then the Champions of Champions 2002 tournament was as successful as the World Cup.

This tournament, run by the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation, is the pinnacle for all amateurs run clubs, for the competing teams it is the equivalent of the NSL grand final.

The competition was fierce, the games were exciting and free flowing and the skill level, exceptional.

What does this competition mean to the soccer family?

The Players

For many of these players it represents years of hard work and dedication, a sense of making it on the big stage which fuels a burning desire to do it all again next year. A story to be told to their friends, families and one day to their own children.

The Coaches & Managers

A feeling of pride for their charges, satisfaction in knowing that they have helped to mould these players into quality players and citizens.

The joy when you look at the players receiving their medals and then turning to see the smiles on the faces of parents, friends & children.

The Parents

The greatest feeling in the world for a parent to

experience is when your heart is bursting with raw emotion and pride at the site of seeing your child experience his or her moment of moments.

The NSW Amateur Soccer Federation

This Federation is made up of people who love soccer and work to give amateur players, via their clubs and associations, the opportunity to enjoy life, meet people, form friendships and hopefully keep the soccer family strong. It is hoped that the players will one day be coaches, managers, committee members or just sign up their sons or daughters to play this great game.

We at the Amateur Federation, hope, that through Champion of Champions and other competitions at local level, have been able to help provide a solid platform for Amateur soccer.

THANK YOU FROM THE NSW AMATEUR SOCCER FEDERATION

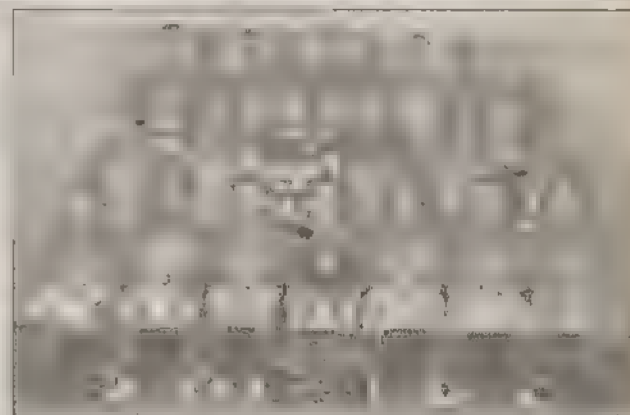
The 2002 Champions of Champions finals day kicked off on Sunday 20 October at Valentine Sports Park. Congratulations to all the State Finalist teams who competed on the day. There was a great display of skill and some spectacular soccer from all age groups. NSWASF Competition Secretary, Bill Cullinan, would personally like to thank all of the Officials on the day who controlled the Games, Referees, Ball Boys, Presentations, Team photos and general running of the event. "It was a fantastic day with a fantastic effort from everyone who was involved".

As a mark of respect to the Bali victims, a minute's silence was observed before the 8.30am kick off and our National Anthem was played. At 12 noon all activities ceased to observe the National minute of silence.

Congratulations again to all the teams on the day, you should all be proud of your "Winner" or "Runner-Up" achievement as you are the top two teams in NSW, for your age group, in 2002.



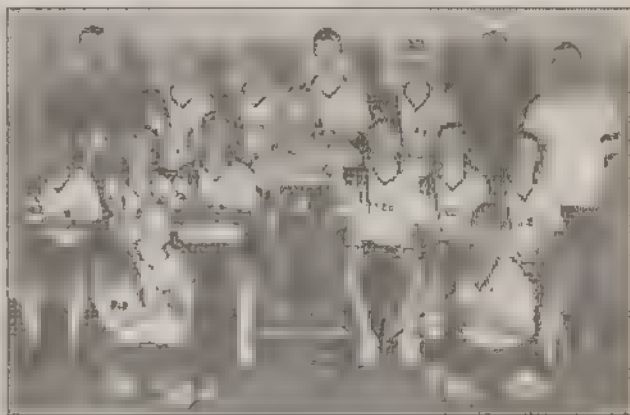
Under 10's



Over 35's

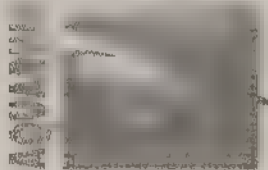


Under 13's



Under 18's

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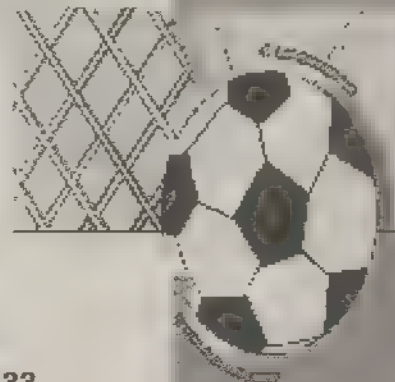
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ITALIAN SERIE A

LAZIO 2 AS ROMA 2

Sinisa Mihajlovic missed a late penalty as Lazio spurned the chance to come from 2-1 down and record a famous victory over city-rivals Roma.

Referee Gianluca Paparesta awarded the spot-kick with just four minutes remaining after adjudging Roma defender Jonathan Zebina to have held back Lazio substitute Simone Inzaghi in the box.

But Yugoslavian international Mihajlovic saw his spot kick superbly saved by Francesco Antonioli as Roma clung on for a valuable point after a pulsating second half at the Stadio Olimpico.

Lazio took the lead five minutes after the break through Stefano Fiore only for Marco Delvecchio to level five minutes later.

Roma then moved in front courtesy of Gabriel Batistuta but Roberto Mancini's side gave further evidence of their resurgence this season with a spirited response which was rewarded when Dejan Stankovic equalised 16 minutes from full time.

After eight minutes Walter Samuel powered in a header which required a sharp save on his line by Angelo Peruzzi.

Six minutes in, Lazio grabbed the lead through the ever-dangerous Fiore.

Giuseppe Favalli swung over a cross and, after some uncertain Roma defending, Fiore was on hand to hammer past Antonioli.

But the Roma fans didn't have long to wait before they had the chance to celebrate an equaliser.

Vincenzo Montella ran on to Emerson's pass but he was unable to beat Peruzzi when clean through. Unfortunately for the former Juventus keeper the ball fell invitingly for Delvecchio who made no mistake with a left-foot shot.

INTER MILAN 2 BOLOGNA 0

Inter Milan established a three-point lead at the top of Serie A on Sunday afternoon after a 2-0 defeat of fellow high-fliers Bologna.

With city-rivals AC Milan losing at Chievo on Saturday, the opportunity was there for Hector Cuper's side to take control at the summit.

And they made the most of their chance thanks to a Marco Materazzi goal and a late effort from Italy striker Christian Vieri.

Bologna, who could have gone top themselves with a win, stay in fourth after suffering their first defeat of the season.

EMPOLI 2 PIACENZA 1

Newly-promoted Empoli's wonderful start back in the top flight continued with a hard-fought 2-1 win at Piacenza.



An Andriy Shevchenko (left) goal could not earn AC Milan a win against Chievo Verona.

The hosts went ahead in the sixth minute through Giuseppe Cardone but Tommaso Rocchi levelled the scores on the half hour mark.

Substitute Igli Vannucchi struck the winner nine minutes from time to preserve Silvio Baldini's side's unbeaten away record.

REGGINA 2 TORINO 1

Renzo Ulivieri saw his new Torino team slump to a 2-1 defeat as Reggina fought back for victory.

Ulivieri was handed the task of resurrecting the Serie A strugglers after Giancarlo Camolese was sacked on Friday following a dismal start to the season.

The former Parma boss does not take the reins until Monday, but he would have been given an early warning about the size of the task ahead as Torino threw away the lead.

Ulivieri watched from the stands as youth team coach Renato Zaccarelli took charge and he would have been delighted when they went ahead through Alessandro Conticchio at the start of the second half.

But the home side levelled through Erjon Bogdani and Carlo Paredes hit the late winner to send Torino to

their fifth defeat in six league games.

PERUGIA 2 MODENA 0

Perugia remained unbeaten against Modena at the Renato Curi stadium with 2-0 victory.

Before Sunday afternoon's game, the teams had met eight times - all of them coming in Serie-B - with the home side winning five times and the other three ending in draws.

And Sunday's inaugural Serie A encounter again went the way of Perugia, thanks to goals from Ze Maria and Rahman Rezaei.

BRESCIA 1 COMO 1

Roberto Baggio celebrated his 400th Serie A game with a late equaliser for Brescia against Como.

The Italy legend struck from the penalty spot to save a share of the points for the home side, who trailed to Pasquale Padalino's opener.

While not quite as glamorous as his many goals for Juventus or AC Milan, Sunday's effort could yet prove vital as Brescia face another battle against the drop.

PARMA 2 ATALANTA 1

Atalanta stay bottom of Serie A after suffering their fifth defeat in six games, losing 2-1 at Parma.

Japan midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata and former Verona striker Adrian Mutu put Parma 2-0 up before Gianni Comandini netted a late consolation.

CHIEVO 3 MILAN 2

The weekend got off to a shock start when Chievo brought high-flying AC Milan back down to earth in a five-goal encounter at the Bentegodi stadium on Saturday night.

Chievo began the game in a positive attacking manner and went ahead when Marazzina cut into the area from the left and beat Kakhabe Kaladze to the ball before heading past Nelson Dida.

Four minutes after the interval former Germany international Oliver Bierhoff doubled the lead against his old team with a header from close range.

Ukrainian striker Andrei Shevchenko, making his first appearance since knee surgery in the summer, halved the deficit in the 59th minute. The Rossoneri

then went looking for the equaliser but instead, Chievo stretched their advantage back to two goals with Cossato hitting the back of the net seven minutes from time.

Cossato then scored again, but the linesman raised his flag and referee Salvatore Raciali ruled it out for offside.

Jon Dahl Tomasson gave Milan a late lifeline but they couldn't fashion an equaliser.

JUVENTUS 1 UDINESE 1

Juventus took advantage of AC Milan's surprise defeat as Marcelo Salas's goal was enough to defeat Udinese.

Juventus coach Marcello Lippi, whose side went down to a 1-0 defeat at Newcastle on Wednesday in the Champions League, did not have Alessandro Del Piero because of injury so that afforded Salas a chance to play and he left his boss smiling early in the second half.

Alessio Tacchinardi released Cristiano Zenoni on the left and he played a perfect low cross into the area, drawing out goalkeeper Morgan De Sanctis.

That left Marcelo Salas to tap in from six yards to send Udinese down to their third defeat of the campaign.

FIXTURES

Nov 3, 2002

AC Milan	v	Reggina
Atalanta	v	Piacenza
Como	v	Inter Milan
Empoli	v	Lazio
Modena	v	Juventus
Parma	v	Chievo
Roma	v	Perugia
Torino	v	Brescia
Udinese	v	Bologna

Chievo 3 AC Milan 2, Juventus 1 Udinese 0, Brescia 1 Como 1, Inter Milan 2 Bologna 0, Parma 2 Atalanta 1, Perugia 2 Modena 0, Piacenza 1 Empoli 2, Reggina 2 Torino 1, Lazio 2 AS Roma 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Inter	6	5	1	0	12	4	16
2 Milan	6	4	1	1	19	5	13
3 Juventus	6	3	3	0	10	4	12
4 Lazio	6	3	2	1	10	6	11
5 Bologna	6	3	2	1	8	5	11
6 Roma	6	3	1	2	14	10	10
7 Empoli	6	3	1	2	8	7	10
8 Parma	6	2	3	1	10	8	9
9 Chievo	6	3	0	3	10	9	9
10 Modena	6	3	0	3	6	10	9
11 Piacenza	6	2	1	3	7	9	7
12 Perugia	6	2	1	3	7	11	7
13 Udinese	6	2	1	3	4	8	7
14 Reggina	6	1	2	3	6	9	5
15 Brescia	6	1	2	3	8	12	5
16 Como	6	0	4	2	4	8	4
17 Torino	6	1	0	5	3	12	3
18. Atalanta	6	0	1	5	4	13	1



The ever reliable Christian Vieri was on target for Inter as they beat Bologna.



ENGLISH



An English Odyssey

By Stuart Jones

Welcome back to another week of mayhem. Arsenal seem to have learnt how to lose and now are going out of their way to prove how good they are at it.

In a sense it is good to see as perhaps the club was starting to portray a very Man Utd feel about them - ie we are too good to lose. Amazingly enough though the Gunners, despite losing twice in a row, continue their run of matches in which they have at least scored. North London rivals Tottenham were doing very well in third place but when they took on Liverpool lost.

Perhaps they were conceding they are not good enough too win the Premiership so why not give the points to any team that could pip Arsenal for the title?

Team Bath have become the first student team since 1880 to make the draw for the first round proper of the FA Cup but must beat Horsham in a replay if they are going to enter this promised land. The draw is:

- Farnborough v Harrogate Town
- Barnet or Tiverton v Crawley Town
- Dover or Woking v Oxford Utd
- Northwich v Southport
- Bury v Plymouth
- Wycombe v Brentford
- Bath City or Yeovil v Cheltenham
- Hull v Middlesbrough
- York v Swindon
- Chesterfield v Morecambe
- Accrington v Rushden & Diamonds
- Luton v Leyton Orient or Doncaster
- Dag & Red v Havant & Waterlooville
- Horsham or Team Bath v Mansfield
- Swindon v Huddersfield
- Bristol Rovers v Kidderminster Harriers
- Barnsley v Blackpool
- Leyton Orient v Margate
- Port Vale v Burton Albion
- Notts County or Barnet v Moor Green
- Notts County v St Albans City
- Southend v Hartlepool
- Rotherham v Wigan
- Forest Green or Farnham v Exeter
- Port Vale v Crewe
- Arlesey or Scarborough v Cambridge United
- Grays or Stevenage v Hastings United or Kettering
- Colchester v Chester
- Torquay or Sharncliffe v Boreham Wood
- Huddersfield or Vauxhall Motors v QPR
- Scunthorpe v Harrogate Railway
- Grimsby v Lincoln City
- Hexham v Swifts v Bristol City
- Rotherham v Peterborough
- Wrexham v Darlington
- Luton v Gillingham or Tamworth
- Southport v Notts County
- Tranmere v Cardiff
- Northampton v Boston United
- Stockport v St Albans City

All games are to be played November 6 and 17. It is a great time of year and small or teams like Bath love to smile that upset.

First division update and defeat at Watford has the once mighty Sheffield Wednesday struggling in a relegation battle once more. They are in the bottom three and one point above them is Wimbledon. Good to see them up like QPR and Swindon and on a few years out of being in the top flight and again the underdog of English football.

Bristol City have a 2-1 away 15 league matches this season, one drawn, one lost, one win and one tie. They are at the top of a very long list of teams that have not won a league match since 1980. They are also the only team in the first division to have not won a league match since 1980. They are also the only team in the first division to have not won a league match since 1980.

Former England international Steve Hodge, who played for Aston Villa, has been named as the new manager of the club.

Paul Hodge, who played for Aston Villa, has been named as the new manager of the club. He has been named as the new manager of the club. He has been named as the new manager of the club.

Arsenal slumped to a shock home defeat to 10-man Blackburn while leaders Liverpool moved further clear at the top of the Premiership after their win over Tottenham.

Arsenal crashed to their third straight defeat, their second in the Premiership, as Blackburn shocked the reigning champions with a 2-1 win at Highbury.

Blackburn hit the Gunners with a goal in the sixth minute when Edo turned a Dwight Yorke cross beyond his own goalkeeper David Seaman to break the deadlock.

The Brazilian made amends on the stroke of half-time, levelling the scores and giving the Gunners hope of avoiding a third straight defeat.

But Blackburn were in front again six minutes into the second half when Yorke fired home following a cross by Edo. Yorke's goal was followed by a goal from Edo, who was forced to hang on with 10 men following Garry Flitcroft's sending off.

Premiership leaders Liverpool took full advantage of Arsenal's slip and extended their lead to four points thanks to a 2-1 home win over Tottenham.

Spurs - with Jamie Redknapp making his first return to Anfield following his move to White Hart Lane earlier this year - had frustrated the hosts before Danny Murphy opened the scoring with 18 minutes remaining.

Dean Richards levelled to briefly peg back the hosts, but Michael Owen continued his recent scoring streak by claiming the winner from the penalty spot.

Olof Mellberg eased the pressure on Aston Villa manager Graham Taylor with a goal after 35 minutes, but Diego Forlan clinched his long-awaited first Premiership goal to earn Manchester United a 1-1 draw at Old Trafford.

Terry Venables was frustrated on his return to the Riverside Stadium as Leeds were held to a 2-2 draw with Middlesbrough.

Mark Viduka burst into the penalty area early in the first half only for fellow Australian Mark Schwarzer

to haul him down. He dusted himself down and netted from the spot to give Leeds the lead.

Middlesbrough hit back after 25 minutes, with Joseph Desire Job converting Geremi's cross to send the sides in level at half-time. But Lee Bowyer put Leeds back in front after good work from Harry Kewell.

Leeds striker Alan Smith got his marching orders, yet again after receiving his second yellow card, and Gareth Southgate claimed a point for Middlesbrough before Franck Queudrue was also dismissed.

After their morale-boosting win over Juventus in midweek, Newcastle were stunned by Charlton at St James' Park, who led thanks to Shaun Bartlett's goal on the half hour.

But Andy Griffin struck seven minutes later to level the scores before United finally hit top gear in the second half with Laurent Robert's 59th minute strike, which gave the hosts a 2-1 win.

Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink and Graeme Le Saux both netted to give Chelsea a 2-0 win over West Brom at Stamford Bridge.

Chinese international Sun Jihai scored his first goal in English football before Nicolas Anelka made sure of a vital three points for Manchester City after their 2-0 win at Birmingham.

West Ham's miserable home form continued as Everton's Lee-Carsley popped up to score the goal which condemned them to another Upton Park defeat.

Carsley struck the vital blow on 70 minutes, meeting former Hammer David Unsworth's deep cross with a powerful header which flew past David James.

James Beattie bagged a hat-trick as Southampton roared back from 2-0 down to beat Fulham 4-2 in the Premiership at St Mary's on Sunday.

The Saints were two goals down with just 24 minutes on the clock, but roared back with their biggest goals spree since the New Year's Day massacre of Chelsea.

FIXTURES

Saturday 2 November

Birmingham v Bolton
Liverpool v West Ham
Man Utd v Southampton
West Brom v Man City

Sunday 3 November

Blackburn v Aston Villa

Charlton v Sunderland

Fulham v Arsenal
Leeds v Everton
Tottenham v Chelsea Monday

Monday 4 November

Newcastle v Middlesbrough

PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal 1 Blackburn R. 2, Birmingham C. 0 Manchester C. 2, Chelsea 2 West Bromwich A. 0, Liverpool 2 Tottenham H. 1 Manchester U. 1 Aston Villa 1, Middlesbrough 2 Leeds U. 2, Newcastle U. 2 Charlton Athletic 1, Southampton 4 Fulham 2, West Ham U. 0 Everton 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Liverpool	11	8	3	0	22	9	27
2 Arsenal	11	7	2	2	26	13	23
3 Chelsea	11	5	4	2	20	12	19
4 Man. United	11	5	4	2	14	8	19
5 Tottenham	11	6	1	4	17	16	19
6 Middlesbrough	11	5	3	3	15	8	18
7 Blackburn	11	5	3	3	18	13	18
8 Everton	11	5	2	4	14	15	17
9 Newcastle	10	5	1	4	16	15	16
10 Southampton	11	4	4	3	11	10	16
11 Fulham	11	4	3	4	16	14	15
12 Leeds	11	4	2	5	13	12	14
13 Birmingham	11	3	3	5	11	14	12
14 Villa	11	3	2	6	7	11	11
15 West Ham	11	3	2	6	10	17	11
16 Man. City	11	3	2	6	9	17	11
17 Charlton	11	3	1	7	9	16	10
18 West Brom	11	3	1	7	8	18	10
19 Sunderland	10	2	2	6	4	14	8
20 Bolton	9	2	1	6	9	17	7

FIRST DIVISION

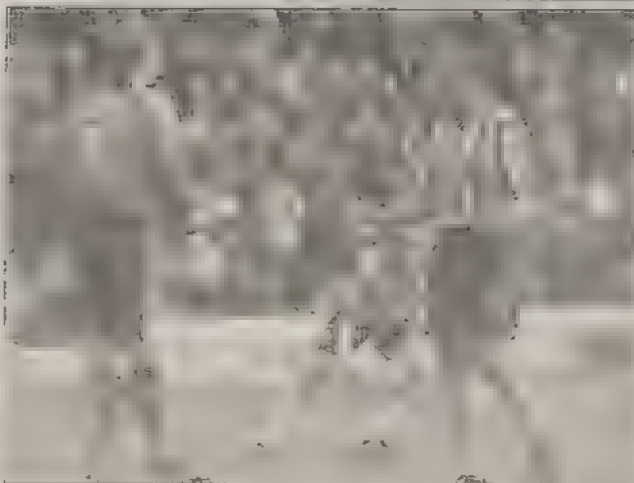
Bradford C. 2 Norwich C. 1, Burnley 0 Portsmouth 2, Coventry C. 0 Walsall 0, Ipswich T. 0 Gillingham 1, Millwall 3 Derby County 0, Nottingham F. 2 Leicester C. 2, Preston North End 1 Reading 0, Rotherham U. 4 Stoke C. 0, Sheffield U. 1 Wimbledon 1, Watford 1 Sheffield W. 0, Wolverhampton W. 4 Grimsby T. 1, Crystal Palace 5 Brighton & Hove A. 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portsmouth	14	11	2	1	32	11	35
Norwich	15	8	5	2	26	11	29
Leicester	14	8	4	2	21	13	28
Sheff Utd	15	8	4	3	25	18	28
Watford	15	8	3	4	21	21	27
Nottm Forest	14	7	4	3	26	15	25
Coventry	15	6	6	3	19	17	24
Rotherham	15	6	5	4	27	18	23
Gillingham	15	6	4	5	18	19	22
Burnley	15	6	4	5	18	23	22
Wolverhampton	13	6	2	5	27	7	20
Reading	14	6	2	6	17	4	20
Bradford	14	4	7	4	6	20	19
Derby	15	5	3	7	15	20	18
Crystal Palace	14	3	8	3	22	17	17
Preston	14	3	8	3	19	21	17
Ipswich	14	4	4	6	18	18	16
Walsall	15	4	4	7	19	23	16
Millwall	15	4	4	7	16	25	16
Stoke	15	3	5	7	16	25	14
Wimbledon	15	3	4	8	14	22	13
Sheff Wed	15	2	6	7	13	21	12
Grimsby	15	2	3	10	10	27	9
Brighton	14	1	1	12	11	30	4

SECOND DIVISION

Barnsley 1 Wycombe W. 1, Chesterfield 0 Notts County 0, Huddersfield T. 1 Colchester U. 1, Luton T. 1 Wigan Athletic 1, Northampton T. 1 Cheltenham 2, Peterborough U. 1 Bristol C. 3, Plymouth Argyle 1 Blackpool 3, Port Vale 1 Crewe Alexandra 2, Queens Park R. 1 Oldham Athletic 2, Stockport County 2 Brentford 3, Swindon T. 2 Mansfield T. 1, Cardiff C. 4 Tranmere R. 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	15	9	4	2	27	12	31
Cardiff	15	9	4	2	24	12	31
Bristol City	15	10	0	5	30	15	30
Oldham	15	9	3	3	24	10	30
Crewe	15	8	4	3	23	11	28
QPR	15	8	3	4	27	16	27
Blackpool	15	8	3	4	23	14	27
Brentford	15	7	4	4	19	19	25
Chesterfield	15	7	3	5	15	17	24
Luton	15	6	4	5	26	23	22
Wycombe	15	5	4	6	20	22	19
Plymouth	15	5	4	6	20	23	19
Tranmere	15	6	1	8	14	26	19
Port Vale	15	5	3	7	20	25	18
Stockport	15	5	2	8	8	20	17
Huddersfield	15	4	5	6	3	18	17
Notts County	15	3	7	5	9	21	16
Northampton	15	4	4	7	4	20	16
Colchester	15	4	4	7	17	16	16
Barnsley	15	4	4	7	15	24	16
Swindon	15	4	2	9	15	23	14
Peterborough	15	3	4	8	18	21	13
Cheltenham	15	3	4	8	16	23	13
Mansfield	15	3	2	10	20	39	13



James Beattie scored a hat-trick as Southampton came from behind to beat Fulham.

Spanish Primera Liga

Valencia and Barcelona scored early and often on Saturday night in big wins while Real Madrid dropped another two points in a disappointing home game against Villarreal.

Valencia played like the champions they are in a 5-1 demolition of Athletic Bilbao.

Athletic were chasing shadows from the start, and were forced to make a substitution and tactical changes before half time, such

was the extent of Valencia's dominance.

The player who will grab all of the headlines is Valencia's Argentinian playmaker Pablo Aimar, who had a hat-trick and even hit the post in the first half.

The 5-1 win means Valencia are top in Spain, in front of Real Sociedad and Celta Vigo on goal difference.

Real Sociedad host Racing Santander on Sunday.

There was a three-star performance by Barcelona's Patrick Kluivert as he grabbed a hat-trick in a 6-1 rout against Alaves at the Nou Camp.

The Dutch star, scoring on 16, 26 and 79 minutes, produced a man of the match display as Barcelona tore Alaves to threads.

The Catalans had the game won by half-time when they held a 4-0 lead. The triumph, however, was only their third of the season in La Liga.

Doubts continue to linger over the Bernabeu after a spirited Villarreal held European champions Real Madrid to a 1-1 draw at home.

A spectacular strike from Zinedine Zidane gave Real the lead after 22 minutes but midfielder Jorge Lopez levelled from the penalty spot in time added on at the end of the first half.

Extremely talented they may be, but Real are proving to be the architects of most of their own problems.

Last weekend they were second best at Racing Santander and lost 2-0.

They led 2-0 against AEK Athens during the week in the Champions League before the Greek giants hit back to grab a 2-2 draw.

Now, against Villarreal, a side with just one league win all season - that came last week against Deportivo La Coruna - Madrid have also managed to claim just a point at home.

Title contenders Deportivo bounced back

from their shock defeat against Villarreal and Champions League loss to Lens as Roy Makaay scored twice in a 2-1 win at Rayo Vallecano.

Real Betis had three men sent off but still managed to hold on for a point at Recreativo Huelva in a 1-1 draw.

Celta Vigo were held to a goalless draw at home by Atletico Madrid and missed a chance to go top.

Recreativo Huelva 1 Real Betis 1, Real Madrid 1 Villarreal 1, Rayo Vallecano 1 Deportivo La Coruna 2, Valencia 5 Athletic Bilbao 1, Barcelona 6 Deportivo Alaves 1, Celta de Vigo 0 Atletico Madrid 0, Malaga 3 Espanyol 4, Mallorca 2 Osasuna 0, Sevilla 2 Valladolid 1, Real Sociedad 2 Racing Santander 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Celta	7	4	2	1	10	4	14
2. Valencia	7	4	2	1	16	5	14
3. Real	6	4	2	0	17	11	14
4. Madrid	7	3	3	1	14	8	12
5. Malaga	6	3	3	0	13	9	12
6. Deportivo	7	4	0	3	11	12	12
7. Barcelona	7	3	2	2	15	10	11
8. Betis	7	2	4	1	13	9	10
9. Valladolid	6	3	1	2	6	6	10
10. Racing	6	3	1	2	7	5	10
11. Mallorca	6	3	0	3	6	9	9
12. Atlético	7	1	5	1	10	8	8
13. Rayo	7	2	2	3	10	12	8
14. Villarreal	7	1	4	2	9	9	7
15. Osasuna	6	1	2	3	10	14	5
16. Alavés	7	1	2	4	9	18	5
17. Athletic	7	1	2	4	7	16	5
18. Sevilla	6	0	4	2	4	6	4
19. Espanyol	6	1	1	4	3	9	4
20. Recreativo	7	0	2	5	5	15	2

FIXTURES

Sunday 3 November

Athletic Bilbao v Celta Vigo
Atletico Madrid v Rayo Vallecano
CD Alaves v Sevilla
D Coruna v Real Madrid
Espanyol v Valencia
Osasuna v Recreativo Huelva
Racing Santander v Barcelona
Real Betis v Malaga
Valladolid v Mallorca
Villarreal v Real Sociedad



Valencia's Javier Rufete storms past a Athletic Bilbao player.

German Bundesliga

Bayern Munich slipped up at home to strugglers Hannover on Saturday and champions Borussia Dortmund took advantage by climbing to second with a convincing 4-1 win at Werder Bremen.

On a day when Brazilians took centre stage in the Bundesliga, it was the South Americans who stole the show in Bremen.

Dede scored once and Ewerthon netted twice for Dortmund, who kept their unbeaten Bundesliga record so far this season.

Germany international Torsten Frings had put the visitors ahead in the second minute after a cross from another Brazilian, Evanilson, before Fabian Ernst levelled 10 minutes after the break.

Dede put them ahead for the second time in the match when Lars Ricken crossed from the right and Marcio Amoroso left it for him to bury from 18 yards.

Ewerthon, on as a 74th-minute substitute for Brazilian Amoroso, scored almost immediately. He tapped in when keeper Pascal Borel spilled a cross.

He added his second five minutes from time with a spectacular effort.

The forward shook off two Bremen defenders before hitting the ball from 15 yards straight into the top right hand corner of the goal.

Another Brazilian, Giovane Elber, scored twice for Bayern Munich but they were held to a 3-3 draw by Hannover as Dortmund closed the gap at the top to just three points.

1860 Munich are third after a 1-0 win

over Borussia Monchengladbach.

Markus Schroth had a simple tap-in in the 46th minute after the home defence was caught napping at the outset of the second half.

Bayer Leverkusen secured a 54th-minute equaliser from one of their Brazilians, Juan, as they claimed a 1-1 draw at Hertha Berlin.

Hamburg's Sergei Barbarez was sent off and Momo Diabang scored twice for Arminia Bielefeld as the visitors from north Germany crashed to a 2-1.

Nurnberg were denied their first victory at the Arena AufSchalke since 1993 by a late Sven Vermant goal.

The Belgian striker struck with time running out to give Schalke a point.

Energie Cottbus picked up just their fifth point of the season as they held Stuttgart to a goalless draw.

VfL Wolfsburg moved up to seventh in the 1. Bundesliga table on Sunday thanks to Diego Klimowicz's solitary strike against Hansa Rostock.

Klimowicz struck in the 29th minute to condemn Rostock to their first away defeat of the season after three wins in their first four games on the road. The hosts could have been in front before that, however, but Klimowicz, having been put in by Robson Ponte, failed to beat keeper Mathias Schober with team-mates Stefan Effenberg and Tomislav Maric expecting a pass. He did atone for his earlier profligacy though by finding the back of the net shortly before the half hour mark.

The second half was poor in comparison to the first as high winds took hold of proceedings. Both sides struggled to find the killer pass with the visitors showing the greater urgency as they sought to get back on level terms. The best chance of the second 45 minutes fell the way of Wolfsburg, however. Maric found himself free in the area but his shot flew wide of Schober's right-hand post.

A heavy storm forced the postponement of the other first division match between Kaiserslautern and VfL Bochum. The

German Football Association said the game had been called off two hours before the planned kick-off due to safety concerns. No new date for the match has been set.

FIXTURES

Saturday 2 November

1860 Munich v Arminia Bielefeld
Bayer Leverkusen v VfB Stuttgart
Borussia Dortmund v Hamburg
Cottbus v Schalke
Hannover 96 v Wolfsburg
Hansa Rostock v FC Kaiserslautern
Nurnberg v Borussia M'gladbach

Sunday 3 November

VfL Bochum v Hertha Berlin
Werder Bremen v Bayern Munich

Arminia Bielefeld 2 Hamburger SV 1, Bayern Munich 3 Hannover 3, Hertha BSC 1 Bayer Leverkusen 1, Monchengladbach 0 Munich 1860 1, Schalke 1 Nurnberg 1, Stuttgart 0 Energie Cottbus 0, Werder Bremen 1 Borussia Dortmund 4, Wolfsburg 1 Hansa Rostock 0.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	10	7	2	1	26	11	23
Borussia Dortmund	10	5	5	0	16	6	20
1860 Munich	10	5	2	3	15	12	17
Werder Bremen	10	5	2	3	19	19	17
Hertha Berlin	10	4	4	2	12	8	16
Schalke	10	4	4	2	13	10	16
Wolfsburg	10	5	1	4	11	11	16
VfL Bochum	9	4	2	3	20	16	14
VfB Stuttgart	10	3	5	2	16	12	14
Arminia Bielefeld	10	4	2	4	11	16	14
Hansa Rostock	10	4	1	5	11	8	13
Bayer Leverkusen	10	3	3	4	14	17	12
Hamburg	10	4	0	6	11	17	12
Borussia M'gladbach	10	3	2	5	10	8	11
Nurnberg	10	3	1	6	12	17	10
Hannover	9	6	10	3	5	18	9
FC Kaiserslautern	9	1	3	5	7	12	6
Cottbus	10	1	2	7	5	22	5



Dortmund's Dede shown in action against SV Werder Bremen.



GREEK ETHNIKI KATIGORIA

PAOK Thessaloniki and Olympiakos Piraeus fought out a 1-1 draw when the Greek league resumed this weekend in a match marred by crowd trouble.

The national league was suspended when the government failed to bail out the clubs when the league's TV deal broke down but hardly resumed in trouble free fashion when an assistant referee was struck by a coin in the Thessaloniki derby and the match was held up for half an hour as he received treatment.

Referee Yiannis Douros had awarded Olympiakos a penalty - successfully converted by Predrag Djordjevic - just before the break, sparking the incident.

PAOK equalised from the spot on 56 minutes through Giorgos Georgiadis after Giasemakis Giasemi was hauled down by goalkeeper Dimitris Eleftheropoulos.

The draw allowed AEK Athens FC to stay top of the table after their 1-0 win over Kallithea thanks to another penalty, this time by Vassilis Tsartas.

Coach Dusan Bajevic had rested some of his key players, including Dennis Nikolaidis, Mauricio Wright, Michalis Kapsis and Vassilis Lakis, ahead of next Wednesday's decisive Champions League game with Genk. Under the charge of new coach Sergio Markarian, Panathinaikos FC defeated Aris Thessaloniki FC 3-2 behind

closed doors at their Apostolos Nikolaidis Stadium.

Panathinaikos led 3-1 by half-time after goals from Nikos Lyberopoulos (5), Angelos Bassinas (18) and Michalis Konstantinou (32). Aris had equalized on the quarter of an hour mark but Giourkas Seitaridis restored the home team's advantage before Josip Simic pulled another one back after the interval.

Giannina FC recorded their first win for the season with a 3-0 defeat of Panahaiki while Iraklis overcame Akrotiris 1-0 courtesy of Ieroklis Stoltidis' 17th minute strike. Three games, Egaleo - Panionios, Proodeftiki - OFI Crete and Ionikos - Xanthi, ended in scoreless draws.



Vassilis Tsartas gave AEK Athens the win courtesy of a well-taken goal to guide his side to the top of the Greek table.

AEK Athens 1 Kallithea 0, Egaleo Athens 0 Panionios 0, Giannina 3 Panahaiki Patras 0, Proodeftiki 0 OFI Crete 0, Ionikos Nikea 0 Xanthi Skoda 0, Panathinaikos 3 Aris Saloniki 2, Iraklis Saloniki 1 Akrotitis 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. AEK	5	4	1	0	7	2	13
2 Olympiakos	5	3	2	0	9	3	11
3 Panionios	5	3	1	1	7	2	10
4 Iraklis	5	3	1	1	9	5	10
5 Egaleo	5	2	3	0	6	1	9
6 Proodeftiki	5	2	3	0	4	2	9
7 Aris	5	3	0	2	6	6	9
8 PAOK	5	2	2	1	11	8	8
9 Xanthi	5	1	3	1	3	3	6
10 Panathinaikos	5	2	0	3	5	8	6
11 Ionikos	5	1	2	2	3	5	5
12 Akrotitis	5	1	1	3	3	7	4
13 Kallithea	5	1	1	3	4	7	4
14 OFI	5	0	2	3	3	8	2
15 Panahaiki	5	0	0	5	0	10	0
16 Giannina	5	1	0	4	6	9	-9

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE RESULTS

RESULTS MATCH DAY 4

Arsenal 1 Auxerre 2, Dortmund 1 PSV 1, Basel 2 Valencia 2, Spartak 1 Liverpool 3, Madrid 2 AEK 2, Roma 0 Genk 0, Ajax 1 Rosenborg 1, Lyon 3 Internazionale 3, Dynamo 2 Feyenoord 0, Newcastle 1 Juventus 0, Leverkusen 2 M. Haifa 1, Olympiakos 2 Man. United 3, Lens 3 Deportivo 1, Milan 2 Bayern 1, Barcelona 1 Lokomotiv 0, Club Brugge 3 Galatasaray 1.

Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
1. Arsenal	4	3	0	1	8	2	6	9
2. Borussia Dortmund	4	2	1	1	6	5	1	7
3. Auxerre	4	1	1	2	3	4	-1	4
4. PSV	4	0	2	2	2	8	-6	2

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
1. Valencia	4	3	1	0	13	4	9	10
2. Liverpool	4	2	1	1	9	4	5	7
3. Basle	4	1	2	1	7	9	-2	5
4. Spartak Moscow	4	0	0	4	1	13	-12	0

Group C

1. Real Madrid	4	2	2	0	14	5	9	8
2. Roma	4	1	2	1	1	3	-2	5
3. AEK Athens	4	0	4	0	5	5	0	4
4. Genk	4	0	2	2	0	7	-7	2

Group D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
1. Lyon	4	2	1	1	11	6	5	7
2. Inter Milan	4	1	2	1	7	7	0	5
3. Ajax	4	1	2	1	3	3	0	5
4. Rosenborg	4	0	3	1	3	8	-5	3

Group E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
1. Juventus	4	2	1	1	8	2	6	7
2. Dynamo Kiev	4	2	1	1	4	5	-1	7
3. Feyenoord	4	1	2	1	2	3	-1	5
4. Newcastle United	4	1	0	3	1	5	-4	3

Group F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
1. Man Utd	4	4	0	0	14	5	9	12
2. Bayer Leverkusen	4	2	0	2	7	9	-2	6
3. Maccabi Haifa	4	1	0	3	6	9	-3	3
4. Olympiakos	4	1	0	3	8	12	-4	3

Group G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
1. AC Milan	4	4	0	0	10	3	7	12
2. D Coruna	4	2	0	2	7	10	-3	6
3. Lens	4	1	1	2	6	7	-1	4
4. Bayern Munich	4	0	1	3	5	8	-3	1

Group H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
1. Barcelona	4	4	0	0	9	3	6	12
2. Club Brugge	4	1	2	1	5	4	1	5
3. Galatasaray	4	1	1	2	3	5	-2	4
4. Lokomotiv Moscow	4	0	1	3	1	6	-5	1

Fixtures - 29/10/02

Juventus v Feyenoord
Newcastle v Dynamo Kiev
Bayer Leverkusen v Olympiakos
Maccabi Haifa v Man Utd
D Coruna v Bayern Munich
Lens v AC Milan
Club Brugge v Barcelona
Galatasaray v Lokomotiv Moscow
30/10/02

Borussia Dortmund v Arsenal

PSV v Auxerre
Spartak Moscow v Basle
Liverpool v Valencia
AEK Athens v Genk
Real Madrid v Roma
Inter Milan v Rosenborg
Lyon v Ajax



Olympiakos star Christian Karembou shown challenged by Manchester United's Paul Scholes.

DUTCH EREDIVISIE

Ten-man Ajax Amsterdam lost top spot in the Dutch first division when they were held 1-1 at RKC Waalwijk in a match interrupted by crowd trouble.

The flashpoint came when Ajax captain Christian Chivu, on his 22nd birthday, was sent off in the 56th minute after he fouled striker Rick Hoogendorp as he broke through.

From the free-kick, Hoogendorp opened the scoring with a fierce shot deflecting off the wall. With the Ajax fans yelling abuse, referee Rene Temmink stopped play in the 71st minute, restarting the game

12 minutes later.

Ajax immediately caught the RKC defence napping and Maxwell equalised with a close-range header.

PSV Eindhoven took full advantage of Ajax's problems to go top on goal difference as they thrashed NEC Nijmegen 5-0 away.

PSV had it easy after Arnold Bruggink hit the net after two minutes and added a second eight minutes before halftime.

Dennis Rommedahl and Mateja Kezman doubled the score with two goals in two minutes before Arjen Robben's excellent solo five minutes

before the end.

PSV and Ajax have 23 points from nine games, with Roda JC Kerkrade, 5-0 home winners against Graaafschap Doetinchem, four points back having played an extra game.

Feyenoord recovered from a midweek Champions League defeat at Dynamo Kiev with a 5-1 victory over Willem II Tilburg, who played most of the second half with 10 men after Jatto Ceessay was sent off after a clash with Feyenoord defender Thomasz Rzaa.

Captain Paul Bosvelt, back from a leg injury, opened the scoring in the 16th minute but

five minutes before halftime the guests shocked the home side, who had picked up only one point in the last three matches, with an equaliser from Cedric van der Gun.

Within minutes, though, Bonaventure Kalou made it 2-1 for Feyenoord and the home team dominated after the break, Anthony Lurling scoring twice. Feyenoord are fourth with 17 points.

Struggling Heerenveen picked up their first victory of the season after they beat Excelsior Rotterdam 2-0.

Sunday's remaining fixtures were postponed.

NAC Breda 0 Vitesse Arnhem 0, RKC Waalwijk 1 Ajax Amsterdam 1, Roda Kerkrade 5 De Graafschap 0, SC Heerenveen 2 Excelsior Rotterdam 0, AZ Alkmaar 1 FC Twente Enschede 2, Feyenoord Rotterdam 5 Willem II Tilburg 1, NEC Nijmegen 0 PSV Eindhoven 5.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. PSV	9	7	2	0	25	3	23
2. Ajax	9	7	2	0	24	11	23
3. Roda	10	5	4	1	22	12	19
4. Feyenoord	9	5	2	2	24	12	17
5. NAC	9	3	6	0	14	7	15
6. Willem II	9	4	3	2	16	12	15
7. NEC	9	4	2	3	14	15	14
8. Waalwijk	9	4	2	3	14	18	14
9. Vitesse	10	3	3	4	11	10	12
10. Excelsior	9	3	2	4	14	16	11
11. Utrecht	8	2	4	2	10	9	10
12. Alkmaar	9	3	1	5	15	23	10
13. Twente	9	2	3	4	11	18	9
14. Roosendaal	8	2	2	4	13	16	8
15. Zwolle	8	2	2	4	8	15	8
16. Heerenveen	9	1	3	5	10	17	6
17. De Graafschap	9	1	0	8	6	25	3
18. Groningen	8	0	1	7	7	19	1

Scottish Premier League

Rangers hit Kilmarnock for six on Sunday as they maintained top spot in the Scottish Premier League. The Ibrox club's Dutch contingent started the scoring spree in a 6-1 victory with Michael Mols on target in the fifth and 15th minutes.

Ronald de Boer then added a third in 26 minutes before skipper Barry Ferguson hit the fourth eleven minutes before half-time. Stevie Fulton pulled one back for the visitors just before the break but the second half was all Rangers, with Craig Moore's header and Ferguson's penalty completing the scoring.

Celtic stayed in touch with the leaders after a 4-1 away victory against Dunfermline Athletic. The visitors went ahead through Henrik Larsson's 14th league strike of the season and Alan Thompson doubled the lead on 31 minutes, before Craig Brewster gave third-placed Dunfermline hope shortly after half-time. Stilian Petrov and Chris Sutton added goals to Celtic's cause ahead of the Glasgow side's UEFA Cup second round tie with Blackburn Rovers FC on Thursday.

In the day's other game, Hibernian made it five league wins in



Chris Sutton in possession against Dunfermline.

succession with a 1-0 victory against Aberdeen, secured by Grant Brebner's 70th-minute strike.

Dundee moved into the top six on Saturday with a 2-1 win at Heart of Midlothian. Jean Louis Valois hit the post for Hearts before Steve Lovell opened the scoring for Dundee in the 26th minute. Defender Kevin McKenna hauled Hearts level on the hour by heading in Valois' corner. However, Lovell latched on to Nacho Novo's pass to secure all three points.

Elsewhere, Motherwell slumped to a 5-1 home defeat against Livingston. Lee Makel's spectacular ninth-minute strike set up the victory and Cherif Touré Maman scored either side of half-time to kill the game as a contest. Khaled Kemas found the net for Motherwell nine minutes from time, but further goals from David Bingham and Davide Xausa enabled Livingston to climb above Motherwell into eighth place.

Dundee United remain rock bottom of the table, two points adrift of Partick Thistle FC, after the teams drew 1-1 at Tannadice.

Scotland striker Steven Thompson headed United into a 13th-minute lead, but the visitors levelled four minutes from time through Ricky Waddell's looping header.

Dundee United 1 Partick Thistle 1, Hearts 1 FC Dundee 2, Motherwell 1 Livingston 5, Aberdeen 0 Hibernian 1, Dunfermline 1 Celtic 4, Rangers 6 Kilmarnock 1.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Rangers	12	10	2	0	38	7	32
2. Celtic	12	10	1	1	33	8	31
3. Dunfermline	12	6	1	5	22	25	19
4. Hibernian	12	6	0	6	17	19	18
5. Hearts	12	4	5	3	21	17	17
6. Dundee	12	4	5	3	13	15	17
7. Aberdeen	12	4	3	5	13	17	15
8. Kilmarnock	12	3	4	5	12	25	13
9. Livingston	12	3	2	7	17	20	11
10. Motherwell	12	2	3	7	14	24	9
11. Partick	12	1	6	5	9	19	9
12. Dundee United	12	1	4	7	9	22	7

French Ligue 1

Two goals from Brazilian playmaker Ronaldinho helped Paris Saint-Germain to a 3-0 victory over Olympique Marseille, but Auxerre retained top spot.

After three consecutive victories and six games without defeat, PSG have 23 points, and are now just a point behind Auxerre, who beat Stade Rennais FC 1-0 in one of tonight's late games. Marseille slip to fifth place with 20 points.

Ronaldinho opened the scoring in the 15th minute with a free-kick from the edge of the penalty area. His low shot went through a forest of legs and crept inside Marseille goalkeeper Vedran Runje's far post.

Twelve minutes later, the World Cup winner doubled his team's lead from the penalty spot after the referee had spotted a foul by Runje on PSG's Nigerian striker Bartholomew Ogbeche.



Paris Saint-Germain goalscorer Ronaldinho takes on Salomon Olembe of Olympique Marseille.

Olivier Kapo, who also scored in the midweek UEFA Champions League win at Arsenal, gave Auxerre victory against a Rennes side who slip back to the bottom of the table.

Nice, who were level on points with Auxerre before kick-off, lost ground after a goalless draw with Lens. Hardened by their experiences in the Champions League, the Lens defence held firm, even when Cyril Rool was sent off for a challenge on Adebkanmi Olufade.

Defending champions Olympique Lyonnais, buoyed by a run of good results in the Champions League, moved into fourth place following a 1-0 win at AC Ajaccio. Having rested several key players, including goalkeeper Grégory Coupet and strikers Sonny Anderson and Sidney Govou, Lyon secured the win thanks to a goal from Tony Vairelles on the half-hour.

Lille defeated in-form Sochaux-Montbéliard 1-0, Mile Sterjowski's 54th-minute penalty proving the difference between the sides, while RC Strasbourg defeated SC Bastia 2-0. Senegalese defender Habib Beye opened the scoring before Bastia defender Antier Yahia was sent off for a foul on midfielder Ulrich Le Pen. Pierre Laurent's 70th-minute goal put the result beyond doubt.

At the bottom of the table, ES Troyes Aube Champagne twice took the lead at Montpellier Hérault SC, but eventually had to settle for a 2-2 draw. Gerald Baticle and Nicolas Goussé scoring for the visitors while two goals from captain Franck Silvestre salvaged a draw for the home side. Elsewhere, Sedan-Ardenne won 1-0 at Guingamp thanks to a Alain Liri goal, while Nantes took the lead at Le Havre with a Nicolas Gilet penalty but Liverpool FC-bound Florent Sinama-Pongolle equalised to ensure a 1-1 draw.

Bordeaux 2 Monaco 2, Paris S.G. 3 Marseille 0, Ajaccio 0 Lyon 1, Auxerre 1 Rennes 0, Guingamp 0 Sedan 1, Le Havre 1 Nantes 1, Lille 1 Sochaux 0, Montpellier 2 Troyes 2, Nice 0 Lens 0, Strasbourg 2 Bastia 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Auxerre	12	7	3	2	17	10	24
2. PSG	12	6	5	1	21	8	23
3. Nice	12	6	4	2	16	5	22
4. Lyon	12	6	3	3	23	13	21
5. Marseille	12	6	2	4	14	15	20
6. Monaco	12	5	4	3	18	12	19
7. Sochaux	12	5	4	3	14	10	19
8. Strasbourg	12	5	4	3	17	19	19
9. Lens	12	4	6	2	10	7	18
10. Lille	12	4	5	3	11	12	17
11. Bordeaux	12	4	4	4	13	12	16
12. Guingamp	12	4	3	5	17	18	15
13. Bastia	12	4	2	6	13	17	14
14. Ajaccio	12	3	4	5	9	13	13
15. Sedan	12	3	4	5	14	19	13
16. Nantes	12	3	3	6	11	16	12
17. Le Havre	12	2	5	5	9	17	11
18. Montpellier	12	2	4	6	9	16	10
19. Troyes	12	1	5	6	8	16	8
20. Rennes	12	2	2	8	9	18	8

Alain's Corner



Alain Barataud

Remember the name Kapo

Two months ago, French national coach, Santini,

invited Kapo to join the French team in Tunisia. It is a sign for the start of a beautiful adventure, a beautiful year, a great future; Olivier Kapo is born! He is 21 years old with the world at his feet and this week he has already shown the world what he can do.

Act one: Arsenal, Tuesday. Kapo gets the ball, dribbles around Viera and scores an amazing goal. Act two: Against Rennes, Last Saturday.

Does it again and gives the three points to Auxerre to stay on top of the league. It was his week, he was absolutely marvelous and he is not yet finished.

This week was a very good week for French football in the Champions League all round with Auxerre winning in Arsenal, Lyon drawing with Inter three-all in a beautiful game and Lens beating La Coruna.

Lyon remains on top of their group and only needs a win against Ajax Amsterdam to qualify whereas Auxerre and Lens need to win to get a chance for their last group game next week to ascend to the next round.

While Lens is facing AC Milan and Auxerre facing PSV Eindhoven in Holland, it will be tough to get the three points again as they certainly need to be in top form.

This weekend, the game of the year was in Paris. Olympique Marseille, the biggest enemy of Saint Germain (club of the capital city) was here to play in the Parc of Prince to try to upset Paris.

Marseille always get a good result in the capital, so Paris Saint Germain coach, Luis Fernandez, decided to play attacking football to disturb Marseille that were playing without their injured captain, Frank Leboeuf, who is out for a period of two months.

Ronaldinho, Brazilian World Champion was on fire. He said after the game that he likes a top game in a very hot atmosphere and as you could see, he was on fire and top of his art, scoring two goals in the first half, dribbling, organizing the game and scoring.

He was Man of the Match, of course, but well assisted by his teammates.

A big game and a big night, it was a long time ago that Paris played so well and Marseille with their coach Alain Perrin couldn't do a thing as Paris was simply too strong bringing them now to second position of the league just one point behind Auxerre.

The best teams in the League now are on top. Lyon, whose win in Ajaccio, stays put at third position along with Niza. Marseille is in fifth place, but only one point behind Monaco, Lens, Strasbourg and Sochaux, is waiting to take a better spot in the coming weeks.

Only one team is in difficulties, Bordeaux, though with a bit of luck they will get a good reaction also in the next few weeks because if they don't they may as well forget the French title and have to play for a position in the middle table.

Next Saturday, the games to watch will be Lyon against Niza and Sedan versus Paris.



NATIONAL LEAGUE 2002/2003
ROUND 6 ACTION
OLYMPIC SHARKS V NEWCASTLE UNITED

